

With GEORGE FOWLER

FACTFILE

Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VIII MR FQ-400.

PRICE (on the road): £46,999. (Evo range from £23,999).

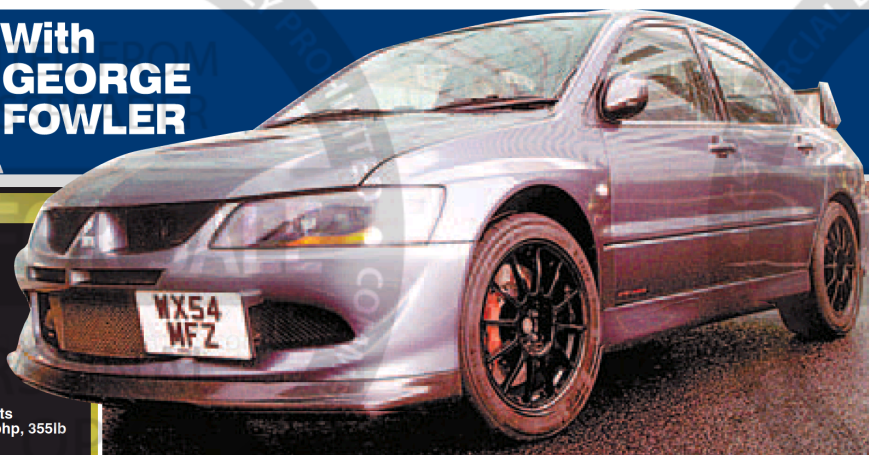
ENGINE: Custom-built 2.0-litre turbo racing engine by Rampage, Owen Developments and Flow Race Engines (405bhp, 355lb torque).

TOP SPEED: "In excess of 175mph"; 0-60mph: 3.5secs.

MPG: Not available (bet it's horrendous).

CO₂: Not available (see above).

INS GROUP: 20.



BEAST FROM HELL: The FQ-400 looks special from all angles

IMAGE RATING

HERE'S how the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VIII MR FQ-400 fares image-wise.

REAR MIRROR MONSTER: Front is dominated by a massive oil-cooler, coupled to grey-finish glass triple-bulb headlights and a spoiler that sticks out like some kind of spoilt bottom lip.

BACKSIDE BEAUTY: Massive wing-style honeycombe spoiler and huge exhaust sat on grey steel 12-spoke alloys.

PLAYTIME PLEASER: Climate control, four electric windows, CD-stereo.

NAUGHTY NIGGLES: Poor turning circle, vicious clutch, difficult to find sixth gear.

TASTY TOUCHES: Motorbike-style door mirrors, roomy rear, big boot.

FAST OR LAST: Brain-numbingly quick. It hit 60-100mph in six seconds in fourth gear.

WONGA WONDER: Storming value for performance freaks.

WOULD AN ESSEX GIRL LIKE IT? Definitely not. Tracey would hate the noise, the competition clutch and the smells.

life. It burbles, splutters and booms just like a racing car, which, of course, is exactly what this car is.

Out on the road the steering feels utterly precise and accurate. Immediately, you just know the car will handle from heaven and then, once the engine has warmed up, you floor it.

Now to say this is a major disappointment would be a massive understatement. It's awful.

It just dawdles along as the revs creep up to 4,200. Then, just as you're wondering how this car could possibly be quicker than a

Ferrari ... oh my God, that's the moment the world turns into a blur, as the turbo kicks in and the FQ-400 takes off like a bullet shot from a gun.

Unbelievably, after all that hanging about, 60 comes up in 3.5 seconds, 100mph is achieved in 9.1 seconds and the noise, the noise is almost unbearable. It's a laugh, a totally shattering experience as you

floor it through the gears. No wonder the speedo is calibrated in 20mph gaps, rather than the usual five or 10.

In "mid" range, which is anything from 70 to 170mph, the pull is instant and outrageous.

You would not believe how ferocious the way it takes off, like some kind of relentless, searing, Santa Pod dragster.

The handling is utterly sensational. You're travelling so ludicrously quickly, yet you find your eyes being dragged away from the road and back to that speedo.

"I'm going how fast?" you scream to yourself as this monster tries to separate your head from your neck

and your brain starts to feel decidedly light and dizzy. By now the noise is unbearable. It's not the engine, that sounds like a jet, it's the exhaust, booming away behind you.

Slow down and the FQ-400 is quite manageable. The ride is not too harsh, the gear change is slick, apart from 5th to 6th, which is horrible, but hell, who cares?

Not me, that's for sure, but it does not take long to decide that this is a car for the track, rather than our camera-cursed roads.

Yes, it's got a big boot, loads of room in the rear and is, indeed, "a versatile four-door saloon," because it manages to combine speed with practicality.

But to be honest, who gives a FQ?

WIN

Goodie bags for your car

WINTER'S on the way folks, and what better way to get ready for it than with a bumper bag of free gear to make your motor safe and smart.

Car care experts Comma have come up with a simple list to make sure you don't get caught out, and I've got TEN packs of goodies, each worth around £30, to go with it.

So, before winter catches you out, make sure you ...

●Have a concentrated screen wash that won't freeze overnight. Comma Xstream is effective up to temperatures of -65°C.

●Make sure all your lights work, including your fog lights.

●Check your oil - 1 in 20 mechanical breakdowns are caused by too little oil.

●Allow enough time to clear ice off your windows - use a chemical de-icer, which will stop ice re-forming.

●Check front and rear wiper blades aren't split.



●Always use main roads as they are more likely to have been gritted.

Comma spokesman Mike Bewsey said: "Follow this quick list and you're much more likely to arrive safely and warmly."

Now get your car ready, and enter this great contest to win one of 10 Comma goodie bags.

Each one contains a one-litre bottle of Xstream screenwash; de-icer aerosol (300ml); glass cleaner (750ml); top gloss car shampoo (400ml); interior cleaner (750ml). And it's all neatly packed into a cracking Caterham sports car bag.

To win one of these packs simply phone 0905 028 0202 and leave your name and address.

Your call will cost just 25p from a BT landline, which is cheaper than a stamp.

Alternatively, text DSMOTOR followed by your name and details to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your usual network operator rates.

The winners will be chosen by mid-night next Thursday, at random from all entries.

Normal Daily Star rules apply. Good luck folks.



VAUXHALL have just sold their one millionth Corsa since the car went on sale 10 years ago. In fact, the Corsa (pictured above) is Britain's best-selling small car, having topped the sales charts in its class for an incredible 12 of the past 14 months.

So far this year, the company have sold 87,500 Corsas, and until December 14 they're offering free fully-comp insurance (aged 21-80), three years' interest free finance or a price-cut of £1,870. And it's a nice little motor, too.

It's the business

Power is the ability to change things - Carly Fiorina

Movers & groovers

CITY spread-betting firm **Cantor Index** is turning its attention to the 2008 US presidential election.

Hillary Rodham-Clinton, wife of former president Bill, is favourite to run for the Democrats at 2-1, ahead of losing prospective vice-president John Edwards at 6-1. Among the front runners for the Republicans are New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani at 3-1 and Colin Powell at 5-1. Dubya's brother Jeb Bush comes in at 10-1.

WILL Orange have third generation handsets in the shops in time for Christmas? The **France Telecom** owned operator declared: "Orange will launch commercial 3G services in the UK and France before the end of the year."

Does that mean before Christmas? "Yes, definitely," affirmed a press spokesman. And what handsets other than the LG and SonyEricsson models that were announced back in July? "That has yet to be confirmed."

The future is bright, the future is... or... to be announced.

THE career of ex-Eurotunnel managing director Bill Dax has taken a new route after he decided to buy his local pub.

Dax, 57, retired from the Channel tunnel operator after nine years and took over the Palmer Arms in Dorney, Bucks, where his family have lived for 30 years.

But it is his daughter Elizabeth, who has experience in the hotel industry, who will run the business.

"I will be advising on the financial side of things," he said.

WYVALE Garden Centres chairman Brian Evans yesterday announced plans to step down from the company.

Evans, 60, joined the company in 1973. Brent Wilkinson, a part-time director of the Herefordshire-based company, will take over.

RECRUITMENT group **Hat Pin's** to cash in on the booming Chinese economy. It has brought in Harrison Dong to be managing partner of China at its Kendall Tarrant Worldwide division.

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

ONLINE advertising group **Deal Group Media** spiked 1.25p higher to 11.5p yesterday following upbeat presentations to institutions. The company is rumoured to be close to announcing deals with **Virgin Megastore** and **Vodafone**. A tie-up with **Sony** is also on the cards.

Ferries hit by tax broadside

P&O ferries division continued to drift as holidaymakers refused to spend money on more expensive French tobacco, it was revealed yesterday.

The ports and ferries group said the number of tourists carried remained flat at 4.39 million for the peak holiday season. But their on-board spending

was down by 19% as a duty hike on fags imposed by the French government continued to hit sales.

P&O is restructuring the loss-making ferry business by cutting 1,200 jobs and transferring a further 350.

It is cutting the number of ferries it operates from 31 to 23

and closing four of its 13 routes. A spokeswoman said the restructuring was still in a consultation process.

The bright spot was the group's port operating division. Growth was still at 16%, buoyed by record container volumes in China, India and Pakistan, said the company.

WHO'S DEALING

SHARES in **DX Services**, the mail services business recently demerged from recruitment consultancy **Hays**, eased 1p to 284p despite director **David Williams** taking his maiden stake. **Williams** forked out just over £10,000 for 3,509 shares at 285p for a holding of 0.004%.

Courts short

LIFE'S NOT SO COMFY FOR COUCH FIRM

■ BY TONY LEONARD
CLOUDS gathered over the future of furniture retailer **Courts** yesterday as shares slumped on the back of a fifth profits warning in a year.

Nearly £13 million was wiped off its stock market value, now £28.2m, after the shares plunged by 31%.

Alarm bells rang as the company warned losses would be "significantly greater" than City investors had expected.

Bosses said they were in talks with the firm's main bankers but analysts warned it could slide into administration.

A 21p fall put shares at an all-time low of 46.5p.



AD MAN: Bruce

Poor

The company, once advertised by **Bruce Forsyth**, has been hit by poor trading at its 86 UK sofa shops this year as well as storm damage at Caribbean stores.

In the latest warning, it said the crucial August bank holiday weekend had seen UK trading in line with expectations followed by a drop-off in the next eight weeks.

The value of orders was down 20% against a year ago and the company said its UK business would make a loss in the second half of the year.

A statement added: "The group has held preliminary discussions with its principal lenders. They have been constructive and are continuing."

Nick Bubb at broker **Evolution Securities** raised his forecast of losses to £33m but added: "There is a serious chance the banks will pull the plug."



TATE TASTY ON BACK OF FOOD BOOM

SUGAR giants **Tate & Lyle** is ramping up production of its zero-calorie sucralose sweetener four-fold to meet a surge in demand on the back of the low-carb food boom.

The group's shares, already up 50% in the past four months on hopes for sucralose, added another 6p to 447.5p yesterday.

The company's scientists invented sucralose in 1976 by tweaking normal sugar molecules to make them taste 600 times sweeter. But the product took off only this year when Tate & Lyle took full control of its US factory.

Chocolate

It is now used in almost 4,000 products around the world from chocolate bars to ice-cream as well as in the stand-alone **Splenda** form, for adding to tea and coffee. In the six months to the end of September, sucralose sales roughly doubled from a year ago to \$22 million, producing more profit (£25m) than in the whole of last year (£20m).

Pools promo is no draw

A HUGE advertising campaign designed to entice more people to play **Littlewoods Pools** has failed.

Its owner, gaming group **Sportech**, warned that the disappointing outcome would knock £3 million off this year's results.

Sportech spent £4m on the campaign on TV and in the press at the start of the football season in August, concentrating on the strapline "Be Lucky".

But it said yesterday: "While the campaign has been successful in re-activating lapsed customers, the results for new direct and collector customers have been disappointing."

Key

Sportech is the parent group of **Littlewoods Gaming**, which owns **Littlewoods Pools**, the largest football pools operator in the UK, with a £2m jackpot prize.

Analysts at **Seymour Pierce** downgraded its rating on the stock, saying: "This suggests it will be more difficult to get customers back to soft gaming with Sportech."

But Sportech insists **Littlewoods Pools** remains one of its key businesses and believes the recent Gambling Bill will create future opportunities for the business.

Going to pot

COMPETITION from home and abroad has forced pottery maker **Portmeirion** to downsize its sites from four to two. The firm is struggling to compete with cheap ceramics from China and Indonesia. It is also affected by UK supermarkets moving into non-food products.

It expects a "modest" reduction in the 540 jobs at the sites in Stoke-on-Trent, from the £1 million reorganisation.

Shares today were unchanged at 167.5p.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 9.80 points (+0.21%) at 4728.30

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	52w
3i Grp	598	+2	686	528	1470
A.B. Food	701	+1	701	559	1082
Alibey Nat.	635	+1	636	420	2121
Aldi Group	503	+2	503	403	1000
Alliance & Leic.	874	-1	915	756	2233
Alliance Unichem	882	-4	891	488	6022
AMVESCAP	306	-5	360	261	1124
BAE Sys.	242.5d	+4	245	159	1010
BAA	559.5d	591	457	3388	
Antofagasta	1030	+12	1250	1072	4949
Astraneca	2319	+1	2845	2103	1585
BHP Bill.	568	+2	621	432	2423
BOC Grp.	878	-1	849	791	1008
Boots Group	667.5d	+4	752	596	1009
BP	542	+9	556	405	1011
Bristle	520.5d	+11	776	465	3382
BT Group	188	+2	198	169	1012
Bunzl	433	+4	485	405	1137
Cable & Wire	105	-1	153	96	1015
Cadbury-Sch.	453	-1	476	366	1016
Cain Energy	1495	-	1532	365	3643

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	52w
Capita Group	351	-3	364	224	1263
Carnival	2951	+2	2984	1986	2568
Centrica	242.5d	+3	252	187	1618
Compass Group	240	+5	385	213	7653
Daily Mail	725	-7	745	581	1973
Diageo	742	+1	780	657	1029
Dioms Grp.	171	-3	176	129	1020
Ent Inns	800	-5	955	698	1186
Exel	739	-1	789	682	1366
Friends Prov.	137.5d	-1	157	123	7333
Gallagher Grp.	692.5d	+1	701	582	2222
GlassSmithKline	1158.5d	-5	1390	1042	1024
GLS	882	-1	912	713	1237
Hanson	416	-3	451	360	1030
Hays	118.5d	-1	145	111	6084
HBOC	740	-8	781	653	3533
Hilton Group	265.5d	+4	284	197	1942
HSBC Hldgs.	905	-1	911	784	5562
Imp Chem.	215	-1	247	184	1032
Imp Tobacco Grp.	1286	-8	1296	967	1271
Intercon. Hotel	668	-1	675	490	2729
ITV	107	-	148	84	2148
Johnson Math.	479	+14	1055	841	1280

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	52w
Kingfisher	310.5d	-2	317	270	5908
Land Secs.	1212	+13	1216	903	1035
Legal&Gen.	103	-	109	87	1036
Lib Int.	882	+5	885	634	7549
Lloyds Tab Grp.	432	-5	476	391	6395
Man Group	1302	-42	1856	1155	7896
Mark & Sp.	353	-3	368	294	1039
Mme2	105	-1	112	64	2100
Morrison (Wm)	228.5d	+1	256	171	1253
National Grid	484	-2	487	379	4443
Next	1698	-2	1705	1079	1254
Nthn Rock	740	-5	789	670	3555
Old Mutual	119.5d	-	119	90	2782
Prudential	408	-7	533	386	7481
Reed Elsevier	496	-1	542	445	1396
Renolux Intit.	157	+2	230	136	7779
Reuters Grp.	356	-1	429	228	1047
REXAM	445	+2	457	403	1115
Rio Tinto	1476	+17	1574	1212	6699
Rolls-Royce	262.5d	+2	265	166	6441
Royal Bank Scot.	1554	-5	1764	1494	2219
RoyalSun All.	76.5d	-1	109	68	7482

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	52w
SAB	811	+7	813	516	4718
Sage Grp.	186	+1	207	155	6601
Sainsbury(J)	261	+1	359	242	1050
Schroders	665	-1	763	535	1415
Schroders Nv.	594	-2	687	496	2917
Scot & Newcastle	413	+5	444	350	1421
Scot Power	441	-3	439	615	8027
Shire Pharm.	519	-29	571	406	5200
Severn Trent	931	+3	933	700	4015
Shell	435	+5	435	348	2935
Smith & Nephew	517.5d	+48	614	439	1434
Smiths Group	760.5d	+3	768	619	1437
Stand Chart.	1002	+5	1002	833	4887
Tesco	289.5d	-2	291	237	1056
Tomkins	257.5d	+2	288	241	1462
Unilever	474.5d	+6	576	443	5983
Utd Utilities	582	-2	586	472	4010
Vodafone Grp.	141	-	149	114	3577
Whitbread	812.5d	-8	853	701	1498
William Hill	493.5d	-7	559	351	4848
Wolsey	949.5d	-3	971	709	3288
WPP Grp.	556.5d	+4	643	469	3283
Xstrata	869	+2	938	570	3421
Yell Grp.	366	-3	372	280	1026

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

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1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88

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52 REG FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE £4495

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

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1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £15.24
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £15.24
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £15.24

53 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SEHR
OUR PRICE **£6995**

LARGE CARS

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

VECTRA	ROVER 75
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.05
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.05
1.6i 16V 125hp £10.88	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.05

53 REG RENAULT LAGUNA EXTREME
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VECTRA	FOCUS	307
1.6i 16V 125hp £12.70	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.78
1.6i 16V 125hp £12.70	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.78
1.6i 16V 125hp £12.70	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £21.78

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1.6i 16V 125hp £2295	1.6i 16V 125hp £1096
1.6i 16V 125hp £2295	1.6i 16V 125hp £1096
1.6i 16V 125hp £2295	1.6i 16V 125hp £1096

OVER 150 ESTATES IN GROUP STOCK

FOCUS	LAGUNA	PASSAT
1.6i 16V 125hp £16.33	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15
1.6i 16V 125hp £16.33	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15
1.6i 16V 125hp £16.33	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15

EXECUTIVE & PRESTIGE CARS

BMW COUPE	156	LEVIN
1.6i 16V 125hp £23.80	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £30.88
1.6i 16V 125hp £23.80	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £30.88
1.6i 16V 125hp £23.80	1.6i 16V 125hp £14.51	1.6i 16V 125hp £30.88

SPORTS CARS

IMPREGIA	206 CC	AUDI TT
1.6i 16V 125hp £30.86	1.6i 16V 125hp £36.31	1.6i 16V 125hp £54.48
1.6i 16V 125hp £30.86	1.6i 16V 125hp £36.31	1.6i 16V 125hp £54.48
1.6i 16V 125hp £30.86	1.6i 16V 125hp £36.31	1.6i 16V 125hp £54.48

OVER 200 4x4s IN GROUP STOCK

FRONTIER	DISCOVERY	SHOGUN
1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15	1.6i 16V 125hp £27.23	1.6i 16V 125hp £38.13
1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15	1.6i 16V 125hp £27.23	1.6i 16V 125hp £38.13
1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15	1.6i 16V 125hp £27.23	1.6i 16V 125hp £38.13

OVER 100 MPVS IN GROUP STOCK

ZAFIRA	GALAXY	SCENIC
1.6i 16V 125hp £19.95	1.6i 16V 125hp £23.60	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15
1.6i 16V 125hp £19.95	1.6i 16V 125hp £23.60	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15
1.6i 16V 125hp £19.95	1.6i 16V 125hp £23.60	1.6i 16V 125hp £18.15

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GOOD things come to those who wait – and that looks the case at **Romford** tonight when **LEGAL KNIGHT** (10.24) stands out as the best bet on the card.

Paul Young's dog was touched off by the useful Muttonover over track and trip last week, but doesn't have to contend with anything of that class this time.

As the sole seed he can quickly take charge, and once on the lure it should be all over bar the shouting.

There will be plenty of fireworks this Guy Fawkes' night but the best display could

by **JIM AUSTIN**

come from Paul Young's runners on the track, as the local handler is strongly represented in all twelve open races.

KILKENNY ACTION (9.04) is one of the more interesting runners on the card, not only because he was just denied by Vamoose in the final of the Puppy Cup last month.

Staying

The fact is, this November 2002 Son of Larkhill Jo is making his staying bow over 575m.

The way he sticks to the task in his races over four bends, suggests the stamina issue will be answered with the min-

imum off fust. Tom Gone West and Loughten Flyer are clearly dangerous rivals, but Kilkenny Action should use his superior four bend middle pace to beat them.

TEDS WORLD CUP (9.52) was always up against it in the Irish Derby at Shelbourne Park, but he did himself justice by reaching the quarter-final stages. He lines up over 575m in what is his first race since.

He reached the Champion Stakes final by winning all of the preliminaries, only for his luck to run out behind Centour Para in the decider. That form is head and

shoulders above what any of his rivals have achieved.

NINJA LARK (10.08) finished last on his reappearance last week, but this pacey black is a real favourite with the local crowd and in fairness it would be hard to see quite

a performance from him to make a winning return in what was a very hot race.

This is no easier, but he should come on bundles for the hurly burly of that race, and should recapture anything like his best form, his rivals would be in dire straits.

Henlow stage five open races over various distances and Seamus Ganahan could be the trainer to follow.

First up to the plate is RATHVILL PARK (7.50). This Son of Staphers Jo is dropping down in trip tonight, but is two from two over the 460m trip and clearly possesses sufficient early pace to cope.

ROMFORD OPEN CARD

7.30	(Open)	225m	9.04	(Open)
1382 Nobby Harry (sa)	13.87	1452 Ashford Lark (sa)	14.52	1452 Ashford Lark (sa)
2512 Beauty Direct (sa)	24.72	1452 Beauty Direct (sa)	24.72	1452 Beauty Direct (sa)
4314 RICHIEWIRE (sa)	24.65	1452 RICHIEWIRE (sa)	24.65	1452 RICHIEWIRE (sa)
4314 Jolly Kivara (nd)	13.85	1452 Jolly Kivara (nd)	13.85	1452 Jolly Kivara (nd)
15111 Puss (sa)	24.65	1452 Puss (sa)	24.65	1452 Puss (sa)
15111 NANNIE OF STEEL (wd)	13.89	1452 NANNIE OF STEEL (wd)	13.89	1452 NANNIE OF STEEL (wd)
Star bettings: 2 Marnie of Steel, 3 Prince of Puss, 4 Nobby Harry, 5 Nanny, 6 Nanny, 7 Nanny, 8 Nanny, 9 Nanny, 10 Nanny, 11 Nanny, 12 Nanny, 13 Nanny, 14 Nanny, 15 Nanny, 16 Nanny, 17 Nanny, 18 Nanny, 19 Nanny, 20 Nanny, 21 Nanny, 22 Nanny, 23 Nanny, 24 Nanny, 25 Nanny, 26 Nanny, 27 Nanny, 28 Nanny, 29 Nanny, 30 Nanny, 31 Nanny, 32 Nanny, 33 Nanny, 34 Nanny, 35 Nanny, 36 Nanny, 37 Nanny, 38 Nanny, 39 Nanny, 40 Nanny, 41 Nanny, 42 Nanny, 43 Nanny, 44 Nanny, 45 Nanny, 46 Nanny, 47 Nanny, 48 Nanny, 49 Nanny, 50 Nanny, 51 Nanny, 52 Nanny, 53 Nanny, 54 Nanny, 55 Nanny, 56 Nanny, 57 Nanny, 58 Nanny, 59 Nanny, 60 Nanny, 61 Nanny, 62 Nanny, 63 Nanny, 64 Nanny, 65 Nanny, 66 Nanny, 67 Nanny, 68 Nanny, 69 Nanny, 70 Nanny, 71 Nanny, 72 Nanny, 73 Nanny, 74 Nanny, 75 Nanny, 76 Nanny, 77 Nanny, 78 Nanny, 79 Nanny, 80 Nanny, 81 Nanny, 82 Nanny, 83 Nanny, 84 Nanny, 85 Nanny, 86 Nanny, 87 Nanny, 88 Nanny, 89 Nanny, 90 Nanny, 91 Nanny, 92 Nanny, 93 Nanny, 94 Nanny, 95 Nanny, 96 Nanny, 97 Nanny, 98 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Nanny, 1008 Nanny, 1009 Nanny, 1010 Nanny, 1011 Nanny, 1012 Nanny, 1013 Nanny, 1014 Nanny, 1015 Nanny, 1016 Nanny, 1017 Nanny, 1018 Nanny, 1019 Nanny, 1020 Nanny, 1021 Nanny, 1022 Nanny, 1023 Nanny, 1024 Nanny, 1025 Nanny, 1026 Nanny, 1027 Nanny, 1028 Nanny, 1029 Nanny, 1030 Nanny, 1031 Nanny, 1032 Nanny, 1033 Nanny, 1034 Nanny, 1035 Nanny, 1036 Nanny, 1037 Nanny, 1038 Nanny, 1039 Nanny, 1040 Nanny, 1041 Nanny, 1042 Nanny, 1043 Nanny, 1044 Nanny, 1045 Nanny, 1046 Nanny, 1047 Nanny, 1048 Nanny, 1049 Nanny, 1050 Nanny, 1051 Nanny, 1052 Nanny, 1053 Nanny, 1054 Nanny, 1055 Nanny, 1056 Nanny, 1057 Nanny, 1058 Nanny, 1059 Nanny, 1060 Nanny, 1061 Nanny, 1062 Nanny, 1063 Nanny, 1064 Nanny, 1065 Nanny, 1066 Nanny, 1067 Nanny, 1068 Nanny, 1069 Nanny, 1070 Nanny, 1071 Nanny, 1072 Nanny, 1073 Nanny, 1074 Nanny, 1075 Nanny, 1076 Nanny, 1077 Nanny, 1078 Nanny, 1079 Nanny, 1080 Nanny, 1081 Nanny, 1082 Nanny, 1083 Nanny, 1084 Nanny, 1085 Nanny, 1086 Nanny, 1087 Nanny, 1088 Nanny, 1089 Nanny, 1090 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LINGO is on target for a crack at former Champion Rooster Booster in the Greatwood Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham on Sunday week. J.P. McManus's lightly-raced five-year-old has been allotted just 10st 3lb.

Now in the care of Jonjo O'Neill, he won twice and finished second once in his first season hurdling. "He is in good form," said Frank Berry, racing manager to owner JP McManus.

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TWISTON-DAVIES: confident

NIGEL TWISTON-DAVIES will have an extra £400 for celebrations if Redemption wins next week's £110,000 Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham.

The man, whose 30% strike rate has seen him notch 39 winners from just 130 runners so far this season, has backed his judgement with the sponsor:

He may have had only £20 on at 20-1, but Paddy Power was not about to let that price last long - especially after the upbeat report the Gloucestershire training gave him yesterday morning. The price is now 16s.

Redemption has not run over fences since coming down at the

second-last fence at Cheltenham last December, having had to be pulled up after his saddle slipped in last year's Paddy Power Gold Cup.

But having warmed up when seventh in a handicap hurdle at the track last week, Redemption pleased Twiston-Davies in a schooling session back over the larger obstacles this morning.

Daylight

"I thought it was a really good prep but the lack of a race just caught him out a bit," said Twiston-Davies.

"He probably saw a bit too much daylight down the back and

picked up very quickly but just ran out of puff. He doesn't want to get to the front too soon but his class just carried him there.

"Jumping has been his problem over fences before but I've helped myself to a bit of 20-1 and I recommend that you do too.

"When he's absolutely right he's very good and he was really good this morning. When he's really well and jumping well the sky's the limit."

Stablemate Ollie Magern, an impressive winner of a novice chase at the same meeting last week, is set to bypass the contest in favour of a possible tilt at Newbury's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

HEXHAM: LIVE ON 09055-141-603 (res 613)

12.50 (15 fences) 2m4f (9 run) £2,290
1 0129 HUKA LODGE (196)(BF,5) L Jongo 11 12... G Berriest(3)
2 1001 FOREVER EYESOULBLUE (9)(C,5,8) Parker 7 11 9... P Robson
2 2632 WHY THE BIG PAWS (6)(CD,F) R C Guest 6 11 4

4 65-0 LUCHIEDUBS (192)(D,5) Mrs L Smith 9 11 0... D Flavin(7) 79
4 62-3 FASHIONS MOUNTY (189)(D,11) F Murphy 9 10 10... K McNeil(8)+83
4 62-6 RAISE A MCGREGOR (17)(D,6) Mrs S Bonham 10 10 4... J Harvey(10) 25
4 42-9 SHINING TYNE (255)(T) S Bell 10 10 3... P Aspell(6) 37
4 04-3 POLAR GUNNER (191) J Jefferson 7 10 0... F King(3)
4 41-8 HAREN SCAREM (20)(CD,5,8) Mrs Williamson 10 10 0... D Lavery(7) 73

LONG HANDICAP: Polar Gunner 9-12, Haren Scarem 9-12.
Star Betting: 10-3 Why The Big Paws, 7-2 Forever Eyesoulblue, 11-2 Huka Lodge, 7 Fashions Mounty, Raise A Mcgregor, 15-2 Luchiedubs, 12 Shining Tyne, Polar Gunner, 16 others.
2003: Tyndarius, 12-11-12, (P Aspell, 11-4) J Hetherton, 5 ran.

S'FORM: RAISE A MCGREGOR Dgr: Huka Lodge
1.20 SHARP MINDS BETFAIR MAIDEN CHASE
Class F (19 fences) 3m1f (10 run) £3,572
1 2F5-3 BRIAR'S MIST (7) C Grant 7 11 0... D Elsworth 47
2 40P- BUCKSBACK (44) R Johnson 8 11 0... K Johnson
1 04P-0 CIONN MIALANA (7)(P) P Beaumont 6 11 0... R Garrity
4 3P-0 INTERSKY SOVEREIGN (181)(T) J Howard Johnson 6 11 0... A Lee

5 PP2-5 RECENT EDITION (229) J Wade 6 11 0... A Dempsey
6 11-23 THYNE MAN (196)(BF,5) J Mackie 6 11 0... A Dobbin+73
P4-P4 WHITFIELD WARRIOR (9) R Hunter 6 11 0... O'Neill 72
5 00-5 ARCTIC LAGOON (25)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 5 10 13... K McNeil
9 00-1 CLEVER FELLA (20)(D,5) Mrs K Walton 5 10 13... J Crowley
10 4UP- CHICAGO BREEZE (220) F Murphy 5 10 12... K McNeil
Star Betting: 5-2 Thyme Man, 7-2 Briar's Mist, 11-2 Arctic Lagoon, 6 Clever Fella, 7 Whitfield Warrior, 14 Intersky Sovereign, 16 Cionn Mialana, Recent Edition, 20 others.
2003: Shelu, 5-10-13, (D N Russell, 6-5 fav) F Murphy, 5 ran.

STARFORM: BRIAR'S MIST Dgr: Thyme Man
1.50 SHARP MINDS NOVICES' HURDLE
(E) (10 flights) 2m4f (12 runners) £3,648
1 000-6 BASILEA STAR (12) F Murphy 7 10 12... K McNeil(7) 50
2 66 BLACK TORRINGTON (54)(C,5) M Moore 6 10 12... F King(1)
3 2 BLAIGOWRIE (201) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12... G Lee
4 0-50 BLAZING FIDDLER (19) J Jefferson 5 10 12... M Seston(7)
5 0-40 FOUR MELONS (176) L Jongo 5 10 12... A Dobbin
6 AB5- HOT WELD (207) F Murphy 5 10 12... D Harding
7 0-1 JOY BOB (146)(D) E Eastley 4 10 12... R Garrity
8 1 JULIUS CAESAR (9) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12... K McNeil
9 B3-P REGAL ACT (7)(5) Mrs J Candlish 8 10 12... A O'Keefe(3)
10 P3-P3 SADDLER'S PIDE (23)(T) A Toller 4 10 12... D Dempsey
11 ZIRADEA (1) R Jones 4 10 12... D Moore
12 35 ISELLIDO (5) R C Guest 5 10 5... N Oliver+54
13 15-15 FOUR MELONS, 12 Julius Caesar, Isellido, 16 others.
2003: Now Then Sid, 4-10-12, (Miss Jackson(7), 2-1) Mrs S Watt, 4 ran.

STARFORM: BLAIGOWRIE Danger: Hot Weld
STARFORM: SARA MONICA Dgr: Moor Spirit
WOLVERHAMPTON: 09055-141-603 (res 613)

TOP JOCKEYS (with mounts) N Callan 66 winners, (12% strike rate), £71.48, A Culhane 53, (11%), £52.25, G Gibbons 48, (12%), £21.69, S Sanders 40, (20%), £27.33, D Sweeney 32, (11%), £77.47, S W Kelly 27, (10%), £81.24, G Baker 27, (10%), £37.05, R Winston 24, (9%), £109.91, P Doe 24, (12%), £34.63, F Lynch 23, (11%), £86.76, P Hanagan 18, (15%), £22.64, R FitzPatrick 16, (6%), £131.88, G Faulkner 16, (21%), £26.50, L Fletcher 14, (7%), £64.75.

4.15 BET DIRECT MAIDEN STAKES
Class D3 2YO 1m1f (13 runners) £3,621
1 (8) 00831 MY PENSION (11)(A) P Howling 9 9... R Winston 22
2 (10) 00000 DEVIOUS AYERS (59) J Bradley 9 1... F Fletcher(3) 27
3 (4) 06160 JORDANS PARK STAR (26)(D,5,8) J Sample 9 9... T Eaves(3) 24
4 (1) 2040 KILLING ME SOFTLY (24)(C,A) J Gallagher 9 9... R FitzPatrick 21
5 (12) 0340 LAKE DIVA (18) (Glen) 8 24, G Baker 27, (10%), £37.05, R Winston 24, (9%), £109.91, P Doe 24, (12%), £34.63, F Lynch 23, (11%), £86.76, P Hanagan 18, (15%), £22.64, R FitzPatrick 16, (6%), £131.88, G Faulkner 16, (21%), £26.50, L Fletcher 14, (7%), £64.75.

TONY LEWIS
12.50 WHY THE BIG PAWS
2.20 THYNE MAN (196)(BF,5) L Jongo 11 12... G Berriest(3)
2.20 JULIUS CAESAR
2.20 POLITICAL CRUISE
2.50 SARA MONICA (220)(D,5) L Jongo 11 12... G Berriest(3)
3.20 SPANKRIS
3.50 LA PERROTINE

STAR TIP
12.50 RECENT EDITION
1.50 BLAIGOWRIE
2.20 PERIAN POINT
2.50 SARA MONICA (220)(D,5) L Jongo 11 12... G Berriest(3)
3.20 TIME MARCHES ON
3.50 EMPRESS OF IRELAND
GOING: Soft-Heavy in Places
PLACEPOST: First six races.
TOP JOCKEYS (with mounts) A Dobbin 34 winners, (23% strike rate), £21.11, G Lee 21, (13%), £18.19, J Crowley 17, (14%), £25.44, K Renwick 12, (11%), £24.54, P Whelan 11, (21%), £38.50, R Garrity 11, (13%), £43.33.

2.20 SHARP MINDS SELLING HANDICAP HDLE
(C) (10 flights) 2m4f (11 runners) £2,359
1 480-0 BO DANCER (9)(BF,CD,C,D,F,5) Mrs E Slack 10 11 12... D C Costello(7) 40
2 000-5 WASHINGTON PIKE (9)(C,D) C Grant 5 11 12... Ben Hamilton(10) 34
3 02P- FIFTEEN REDS (27)(C,D,P) J Hayes 9 11 4... P Robson(3) 37
4 500-3 POLITICAL CRUISE (6) R Nelson 6 11 0... W Dowling(5) 34
5 004-5 TSUNAMI (19)(D,5,8) L Jongo 6 10 13... D C Costello(7) 40
6 411-1 PERIAN POINT (6)(D,5,8) Mrs S Foster 6 10 12... Mr C Storey(3) 37
7 00P-8 THE SEA CLUB (5)(D) J Wainwright 9 10 7... J McNeil(7) 23
8 00P-8 ARCTIC LAGOON (25)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 5 10 13... K McNeil
9 00P-8 CHRISTY JAG (138)(P) C Tague 10 10 3... P Buchanan(10) 40
10 40P- JAMIE BROTHER (6)(D,F) W Jones 10 12... J Oliver 19
11 00P-8 JAMIE BROTHER (6)(D,F) W Jones 10 12... J Oliver 19
Star Betting: 4-0 Bo Dancer, 5 Political Cruise, 6 Fifteen Reds, 7 The Sea Club, 8 WASHINGTON PIKE, 9 PERIAN POINT, 10 Arctico, 11 Jamies Brother.
2003: Sting Like A Bee, 4-11-12, (R McGrath, 11-8 fav) J Goldie, 4 ran.

STARFORM: THE SEA CLUB D: Political Cruise
2.50 SHARP MINDS NOVICES' HCAP CHASE
Class F (12 fences) 2m4f (9 runners) £3,591
1 40P-4 HOLLOW MILLS (20)(D,F) F Murphy 8 11 12... P Robson(3) 37
2 501-25 ASIDE ADRI (27)(D,5,8) R C Guest 8 11 11... L McNeill(3) 67
3 501-25 SARA MONICA (220)(D,5) L Jongo 11 12... G Berriest(3)
4 00-5 FLAMING HEDGE (27) Mrs L Norman 7 11 7... D Flavin(5)
5 00P-8 BOGUS DRESS (866) L Jongo 7 11 6... G Gibbons
6 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
7 00P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
8 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
9 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
10 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
11 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
12 40P-8 MOONRISE PIKE (27)(D,5) Mrs S Bonham 7 10 9... K Renwick
Star Betting: 12-8 Aside Adri, 7-2 Sara Monica, 5 Amadeus, 15-2 Moonrise Pike, 10 Moor Spirit, 16 Hollow Mills, 17 Flaming Hedge, 18 The Man, 33 others.
2003: Bob's Buster, 7-11-12, (K Johnson, 7-4 fav) R Johnson, 4 ran.

STARFORM: SARA MONICA Dgr: Moor Spirit
STARFORM: DEWASANTH Dgr: La Perrotine
AT THE RACES
Calls cost 60p per min on a BT landline

TRACKFACTS Left-hand oval flat all weather Polytrack of just under a mile. There is a run-in of two furlongs. Stalls tower 71 Outside, Remainder Inside.

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) Sir M Prescott 45 winners, (26% strike rate), £30.90, J A Osborne 43, (15%), £63.45, R Hollinshead 39, (7%), £313.83, W Brisbane 35, (13%), £28.83, D Chapman 32, (9%), £20.25, D Shaw 30, (8%), £171.99, K Ryan 29, (14%), £70.19, P Evans 28, (6%), £216.70, I Semple 27, (14%), £34.01, R Brotherton 25, (9%), £111.63, D Hahn Jones 25, (11%), £78.00.

TRACKFACTS Left-hand undulating track with ten easy fences and six hurdles per circuit, which becomes extremely testing when the going is soft. The long back straight is all downhill with an uphill climb to the finish and a run-in of 250yds.

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) L Lingo 20 winners, (22% strike rate), £37.12, F Murphy 16, (13%), £59.83, Mrs S Smith 15, (16%), £45.18, R C Guest 10, (19%), £38.50, N Richards 10, (28%), £33.83, M Tondurher 9, (18%), £43.26.

3.20 SHARP MINDS HANDICAP HURDLE
(F) (8 flights) 2m4f (12 runners) £3,192
1 10P- SILKEN PEARLS (229)(D,5,8) L Jongo 8 11 12... O Berriest(3)
2 51F- BLACK BULLET (55)(D,5,8) Mrs S Candlish 11 11 10... A O'Keefe(3)
3 3 F0-3 THE NAMES BOND (15) A Toller 6 11 7... A Dempsey
4 04P- SPANKRIS (20)(D,5) L Jongo 6 11 0... A Dobbin(7)
5 15P- STORMY BEECH (196)(D,4,5,8) P Johnson 8 11 15K Johnson+83
6 00000 JUST SAIL (5)(CD,5,8) R Nelson 5 11 4... W Dowling(5) 34
7 00P-3 TIME MARCHES ON (20)(D,5,8) K Crowley 6 11 2... J Crowley 23
8 00P-3 STAR TROOPER (207)(D,5,8) Mrs S Foster 6 11 2... Mr C Storey(3) 37
9 0032- UPSWING (234) S Bell 7 10 12... P Aspell(6) 37
10 0540 NORTHERN MINISTER (11)(D,5,8) F Murphy 5 10 11... G Harding
11 F00 SILVER SEDGE (181) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12... R Garrity
12 0442 TENDER TOUCH (6)(D,5,8) Mrs S Foster 6 10 12... D C Costello(7) 40

STARFORM: TIME MARCHES ON Dgr: Upswing
3.50 STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE
Class H 2m4f (19 runners) £2,625
1 01- DEWASANTH (215)(CD,5) J Jefferson 5 11 12... M Seston(7) 60
2 ABAY PRINCESS (19) J Howard Johnson 5 10 12... Mr P Callaghan(7) 40
3 00P- ALMENA (5) M Moore 5 10 12... T Haydn(10) 40
4 00P- BARROW BROOK (38) Mrs S Smith 6 10 12... T Haydn(10) 40
5 00P- BIRCH DANCE (25) Mrs S Bonham 5 10 12... T Haydn(10) 40
6 00P- BROMLEY ABBEY (365) Mrs S Bonham 5 10 12... Mr C Storey(3) 37
7 00P- CITY SPRINGS (27) Mrs L Wainwright 4 10 12... D McPhail 45
8 00P- CROSBY VENT (19) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12... R Whelan(3)
9 00P- EMPRESS OF IRELAND (4) F Murphy 5 10 12... P Whelan(3)
10 00P- KEEN TO GO (19) L Jongo 4 10 12... T Haydn(10) 40
11 00P- LADIES FROM DRESS (272) A Cook 5 10 12... P Robson(3)
12 26- LA PERROTINE (222) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12... G Lee 39
13 00P- MINOCHKA (173) S J Sweeney 4 10 12... T Sweeney+59
14 00P- MISS PRINCE (1) Wainwright 4 10 12... N Hammy(3)
15 243 RUDE HEALTH (27) S Bell 4 10 12... A Tucker(3) 57
16 00P- SISTER O' MALLEY (152) J Charles 5 10 12... G Gibbons 22
17 00P- SWEET ARI (18) J Howard Johnson 4 10 12... A Dobbin
18 00P- WALT A FLY (201) C Tague 4 10 12... A Oliver 24
Star Betting: 9-2 Dewasanth, 11-2 Barrow Brook, 16 La Perrotine, Rude Health, 7 Minochka, Sweet Ari, 8 Empress of Ireland, 14 others.
2003: Marsh Run, 4-1-15, (M Greenall(7), 2-1 fav) M W Easterby, 12 ran.

STARFORM: DEWASANTH Dgr: La Perrotine
AT THE RACES
Calls cost 60p per min on a BT landline

TONY LEWIS
4.15 TANGIBLE
5.05 JUST ONE LOOK
5.05 OVERDRAWN
5.30 PEPPER ROAD
5.55 INCH BY INCH
6.20 VELOCITAS
STAR TIP
4.15 NOVELINA
5.05 HANA DEE
5.05 INDIANA BLUES
5.30 SCOT SCOT
5.55 INCH BY INCH
6.20 SEMELLE DE VENT
GOING: Standard
PLACEPOST: First six races.

5.55 BET DIRECT CLASSIFIED STAKES
Class G4 6f (13 runners) £2,660
1 (13) 00000 AROGANT PRINCE (5)(CD,CD,5,8,9,10) J Pease 7 9 3... N Callan 41
2 (7) 00000 GOODWOOD PRINCE (11)(D,F,5) S Dow 4 9 3... Lias Jones 23
3 (2) 00000 MR BOUNTIFUL (4)(C,A,F,11) J Doherty 6 9 3... S W Kelly 54
4 (12) 20124 ON THE TRAIL (20)(CD,5,CD,6,A,F,5,9) D Chapman 7 9 3... A Culhane 48
5 (10) 00500 STAGNITE (4)(F,11) Mrs H Sweeney 4 9 3... N Chalmers(3)
6 (8) 4000 ST AUUSTEL (38)(F,11) Toller 4 9 2... S Sanders 53
7 (1) 00023 PULSE (21)(C,A,F,11) J Bradley 6 9 3... P Fitzsimon 65
8 (11) 20353 VALLANT ROMEO (10)(F,11) J Badlam 4 9 1... R Venn 65
9 (4) 3608 CHICKADEE (84)(C,D,A,F,11) D Hahn Jones 9 9 3... R Havin 68
10 (5) 40111 INCH BY INCH (25)(D,F,10,11) M Males 5 9 9... A Quinns(5)
11 (6) 00000 KARMSKIN PARK (25)(A,F,11) S Etherington 5 9 0... G Baker 47
12 (3) 00000 MARGALITA (5)(A,F,11) T Mitchell 4 9 0... G Gibbons 52
13 (9) 00400 PARK STAR (132)(A,5) D Shaw 4 9 0... R Winston 54
Star Betting: 9-4 Inch By Inch, 5 On The Trail, Pulse, 6 Vallant Romeo, 9 Chickadee, 16 Stagnite, 16 Karmskin Park, 20 others.
BEST DRAWN: Stagnite (drawn 10) 12%, Vallant Romeo (drawn 11), Goodwood Prince (drawn 7) 8%, Karmskin Park (drawn 9) 8%.

STARFORM: INCH BY INCH Dgr: On The Trail
6.20 BET DIRECT CLASSIFIED STAKES
Class F4 3YO 1m1f103yds (9 run) £2,597
1 (7) 00000 BEST DESERT (11)(BF,F,11) J R Best 9 2... S Sanders 42
2 (1) 00000 WINDMILL (11)(BF,F,11) J R Best 9 2... P Hanagan 42
3 (8) 04833 MR MIDASMAN (55)(5) R Hollinshead 8 13... D Sweeney 50
4 (4) 00430 DANCING BARE (55)(5) R Hollinshead 8 12... N Callan 31
5 (4) 860 OLLIVANT (24)(5) M Doherty 8 12... P Havin 38
6 (2) 00000 ALIANTA (132) S Dow 8 12... Lias Jones 25
7 (6) 00000 PRINCESS SEMELLE (15)(A,F,11) M Appleby 8 9 3... S Righton 29
8 (5) 00000 SEMELLE DE VENT (27)(F,11) D Hahn Jones 8 9 3... P Havin 38
9 (3) 00000 ZARNEETA (10) W De Best 8 9 3... P Doe 26
Star Betting: 7-4 Best Desert, 3 Semelle de Vent, 4 Velocitas, Mr Midasman, 26 Dancing Bare, Ollivant, Princess Semelle, Zarnetta, 33 others.

STARFORM: VELOCITAS Dgr: Semelle De Vent

YARMOUTH: LIVE COMMENTARY ON 09055 141 602 (RES 611)

AT THE RACES Calls cost 60p per min from a BT landline.



TOMPKINS: Good case

Sub show

by TONY LEWIS

THE extraordinary decision to disqualify Babodana at Newmarket last Saturday was amazingly upheld by the Jockey Club beaks yesterday.

But there won't be a punter in the land who thinks they are right — unless they backed the promoted winner Sleeping Indian.

The stewards decided that Babodana's drift to the right had stopped Sleeping Indian from winning, even though neither horse came within a foot of each other.

So who's to say an all-out Sleeping Indian, who had made his own trouble earlier, didn't drift of his own accord too?

Trainer Mark Tompkins admitted to being "very disappointed" after his appeal was dismissed, saying: "We had a good case."

TONY LEWIS	STAR TIP
1.00 J R STEVENSON (nap)	1.00 J STEVENSON (nb)
1.30 PICOT DE SAY	1.30 BADAM (nap)
2.00 LAKE CAREZZA	2.00 SUIVEZ MOI
2.30 RIVER OF DIAMONDS	2.30 HAT TRICK MAN
3.00 ROSECLIFF (nb)	3.00 SELF RESPECT
3.30 MARIAS MAGIC (treble)	3.30 STREET LIFE
4.00 CHATSHOW	4.00 CHATSHOW

STARFORM: 1.00 Baddam (nb); 4.00 Chatshow (nap); 5.55 (Wolverhampton) Inch By Inch (treble).

BOOKFINDER: 1.00 Music Verse 1.20 Picot de Say 2.00 Westland 2.30 River of Diamonds 3.00 Cottage 3.30 Street Life 4.00 Chatshow.

GOING: Good

JACKPOT & PLACEPOT: First six races.

1.00 SHARP MINDS BETFAIR CLAIMING STAKES

Class F4 1m (18 runners) £3,108

1 (17) CLARANETTE PRINCESS (28)(BF)	1 (17) D Corby (3)	23
2 (9) EASTERN HOPE (67)(D,G,S)	Mrs L Stubbs 5 9 3	47
3 (11) VAL DE MAAL (2)(A,F)	G Chung 4 9 3	64
4 (16) CARMARTHEN BELLE (21)	Miss L Siddall 4 9 2	—
5 (12) LAKOTA BRAVE (26)(D4,A,F)	T Williams	—
6 (6) SUSTAINABLE STYLE (25)	T Liddard 10 9 1	51
7 (4) J R STEVENSON (26)(D2,A,G,S)	S Hitchcott	—
8 (5) M WJHAR 8 8 13	K Fallon	55
9 (13) SINJAREE (11)(A,G,S)	Mrs S Lannym 6 8 13	—
10 (14) STRATHSPEY (21)(G)	P McRorie 5 8 12	—
11 (15) ALAFARZ (30)(C,D3,A,F,G,V,T)	P Evans 8 8 9	—
12 (2) EIGHT (84)(F)	T P Queally	52
13 (1) ESPERANCE (63)(BF,P)	K Darley	—
14 (11) TYNEHAM (11)(A)(P)	W G M Turner 4 8 9	—
15 (18) MAGIC VERSE (21)(BF,D,G)	C Haddon (5)	—
16 (17) PERERIN (20)(G)(V)	C Catlin	62
17 (8) A DOUBLE EWE BEE (11)	J Mc Donald (3)	30
18 (10) GRAND RAPIDE (34)(D,S)	D Fox (5)	—
19 (10) NIPPY NIPPER (11)(T)	S Whitworth	469
20 (10) Miss J Felden 3 8 2	M Halford (7)	—

Tyneham, 7 Strathspey, 8 Esperance, Magic Verse, 10 Claranette Princess, Alafar, 14 others.

2003: No corresponding meeting.

STARFORM: J R STEVENSON Danger: Grand Rapide

TRACKFACTS Left-handed track almost flat with a run of five furlongs. It is quite a testing track with no advantage to any type of horse. High numbers have an advantage on the mile straight course. Stalls today Straight Stands Side, Remainder Inside.

1.30 SHARP MINDS NURSERY HANDICAP

Class E3 2YO 1m (20 runners) £4,141

1 (2) LALA SAPOLA (18)(F)	D Holland	28
2 (12) SWORDS (25)	Fanning	—
3 (1) D Day 9 4 5	K Fallon	22
4 (9) CARIBBEAN DANCER (19)	J Fanning	—
5 (17) M Johnston 9 4	Dane O'Neill	30
6 (7) FLAG POINT (36)	K Darley	35
7 (1) J Dunlop 9 3 1	C Catlin	41
8 (11) BADDAM (67)	M Johnston 8 9	—
9 (1) J Dunlop 8 11	M Johnston 8 9	—
10 (11) DAISY BUCKET (31)(S)	D N Smock 8 11	—
11 (1) D N Smock 8 11	M Johnston 8 9	—
12 (1) LOWESTOFT PLAYBOY (13)	Leanne Kershaw (7)	449
13 (8) GUINEA A MINUTE (24)	P Evans 8 9	—
14 (9) TYBALT (44)(V)	J Fortune	46
15 (10) AKRAAN (68)	Martin Dwyer	34
16 (10) MANIC (16)(A)	R Hills	37
17 (20) A Reid 8 10	J Fagan	28
18 (16) SUNTIMES (20)	P Cosgrave	38
19 (18) UNION JACK JACKSON (50)	P Robinson	44
20 (8) CAPTAIN MARGARET (35)(T)	J Quinn	33
21 (15) UNCLE BULGARIA (50)	S Whitworth	43
22 (16) VOLITTO (26)	E Ahern	—
23 (13) BOWLED OUT (25)	T P Queally	26
24 (1) PICOT DE SAY (4)	N Mackay	28
25 (19) YARCLIFT (32)	O Urbina	36
26 (7) BONGOLA (38)	T Dean (7)	44
27 (4) M Channon 8 4		

7 Sunny Times, 8 Lola Sapola, Baddam, 10 Guinea A Minute, Tybalt, 12 others.

STARFORM and this son of Almarth is one for the short list along with Captain Margaret, who finished best of all when 1st 3rd receiving 1lb, from Seasons Estates (Lingfield 71 E3 h'cap/good-imp), Picot de Say was no match for the winner but had 17 behind him when beaten 1st 1st giving 2lb to the Pen (1m Evr C-D (E3 h'cap/good) just over 8

STARFORM: BADDAM Danger: Uncle Bulgaria

FONTWELL: HEAR IT ON 09055 141 602 (RES 612)

AT THE RACES Calls cost 60p per min from a BT landline.

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) P Nicholls 37 winners, (30% strike rate), +£11.86, G L Moore 36, (24%), +£25.98, R Rowe 20, (14%), +£35.01, C Litzard 9, (13%), -£13.90, C Mann 9, (13%), -£8.22, Miss V Williams 8, (14%), -£32.19, L Wells 8, (16%), -£15.80, R Buckler 7, (10%), -£11.75, Hedger 6, (12%), -£15.80, Dr P Pritchard 5, (10%), -£23.75, S Dow 5, (23%), -£1.00, G Wareham 5, (45%), +£17.10.

1.40 SHARP MINDS NOVICES' HURDLE

Class E (10 furlongs) 2m4f (13 runners) £3,452

1 (21) GALLERY GOD (24)(C,S) 11	M Fitzgerald 81
2 (2) CAPTAIN MACHELL (9) 1 King to 10	P Brennan 81
3 (250) KAROO (8) 1 Nichols to 10	Christine Williams
4 (4) L'ARTISTE BELLE (23)(Jury) 5 10	D Crosse 31
5 (445) LATZD'ALM (198) 10 Kears 5 10	N Feilly
6 (30) MARCHING PREMIER (22)(BF) 1 Channon 5 10	T Doyle
7 (0) MARRON PIERCE (197) 1 R Day 4 10	T J Murphy
8 (302) MENHIS BEURY (28) 1 H Day 4 10	A Thornton
9 (24) SILISTIA (24) 11 Jester 10 12	R Hitchcott
10 (333) SPACE COWBOY (F25) 1 G Moore 4 10	E Moore +108
11 (5) TYNSTRE (19) 1 Hatt 8 10	Mr R McCarthy 17
12 (40) ULTIMATE LIMIT (17) 1 Emma 10 12	R Thornton
13 (340) WHIST DRIVE (32) 1 M Smith 4 10	L Aspell 71

Star Betting: 7-4 Gallery God, 3 Karoo, 7-2 Space Cowboy, 7 Marching Premier, 8 Menhis Beury, 10 Whist Drive, 25 Latz'dalm, 33 others.

2003: No corresponding meeting.

STARFORM: GALLERY GOD Danger: Latz'd'Alm

2.10 MARES' ONLY NOVICES' CHASE

Class E (15 furlongs) 2m4f (6 runners) £4,618

1 (430) BARTON MAY (25)(T) 10 Kears 5 10	N Feilly
2 (457) MY LILY (152) 10 M 2 Devon 10 12	C Belger 10
3 (621) NATIVE DAISY (23)(BF,G,S) 10 James Davis 31	480
4 (159) PRAYERFUL (710) 15 Ainer 5 10	A Thornton
5 (422) ROMANY DREAM (45)(C,F,B) 10 Dain 6 12	R Hitchcott 74
6 (145) SWEET MINNET (18)(C,F) 10 Madgwick 7 10	J Goldstein 51

Star Betting: 13-8 Romany Dream, 11-4 Native Daisy, 7-2 Sweet Minnet, 7 Prayerful, 14-1 Lily, 16 Barton May.

STARFORM: NATIVE DAISY Dgr: Romany Dream

TONY LEWIS	STAR TIP
1.40 MEMPHIS BEURY	1.40 KAROO
2.10 ROMANY DREAM	2.10 ROMANY DREAM
2.40 BEKSTAR	2.40 GREAT OVATION
3.10 MOUSESKI	3.10 MOUSESKI
4.00 FLIRT	4.00 FLIRT
4.10 CENTRAL COMMITTEE	4.10 WHO CARES WINS

ROTTFINDER: 1.40 Gallery God 2.10 Romany Dream 2.40 Alasi 3.10 Mouskeski 3.40 Wild Spide 4.10 Who Cares Wins.

GOING: Good

PLACEPOT: First six races.

2.40 SHARP MINDS CLASSIFIED HURDLE

Class F (9 furlongs) 2m2f (8 runners) £2,933

1 (346) ALASLI (18)(P) 1 M Smith 4 11	R Aspell 60
2 (54) FAIRMORON (20) 10 Kils 5 11	R Hobson 25
3 (300) ISAM TOP (12)(C,D,G) 10 Hogen 8 11	P Hide 49
4 (303) POLISH LEGEND (29)(C,F,T) 10 P Wignam 5 11	P Brennan 31
5 (445) STALEY RAY (18) 1 R Rows 5 11	T J Murphy 58
6 (45) ALYMO (61)(P) 10 M P Kavanagh 71	54
7 (45) BEKSTAR (22)(BF,D,G) 10 Cick 9 11	S Durack 78
8 (44) GREAT OVATION (18) 10 P Hogen 8 11	R Johnson

Star Betting: 3-1 Polish Legend, 2-2 Bekstar, 5 Great Ovation, 6 Alasi, 7 Isam Top, 8 Fairmorton, Staley Ray, 25 Alymo.

STARFORM: BEKSTAR Danger: Great Ovation

3.10 BETFAIR.COM HANDICAP CHASE

Class D (13 furlongs) 2m2f (5 runners) £5,317

1 (115) MOUSESKI (6) 10 Nichols to 11 (137)	M Williams 5 78
2 (65) MONTE CRISTO (31)(D,G,S) 10 V M Taylor 5 11	T Murphy 101
3 (P-66) THE NEWSMAN (47)(C,D,S,F,G,S) 10 G Wareham 12 11	10
4 (000) BATSING (261)(G,S) 10 M Moore 9 11	J E Moore
5 (324) FIERY PEACE (41)(BF,D,G,S) 10 Hatt 7 11	A Thornton +103

Star Betting: 7-4 Mouskeski, 9-4 Monte Cristo, 3 Fiery Peace, 10 The Newsman, Batsing.

STARFORM: MOUSESKI Danger: Fiery Peace

TRACKFACTS Left-handed track almost flat with a run of about a mile round with five hurdles to jump. The chase course is a figure-eight with five fences per circuit, and run-in of 230yds which is slightly uphill.

TOP JOCKEYS

(with mounts) A P McCoy 51 winners, (32% strike rate), +£4.90, L Aspell 30, (12%), +£1.98, P Hilde 39, (12%), +£5.08, M Fitzgerald 18, (26%), +£5.91.

1.30 SHARP MINDS NURSERY CHASE

Class E (15 furlongs) 3m2f (8 runners) £4,342

1 (51) WILD SPIRIT (45)(D,G,S) 10 M Williams 9 11	T Thomas 31
2 (24) KAROO (8) 1 Nichols to 10	J Murphy 58
3 (303) KITTENKAT (17)(S) 10 M Hill 10 11	R Young 77
4 (545) OVER ZEALOUS (30)(D,G,S) 10 P Flynn 72	68
5 (P-19) SUNDAY SAVIST (15)(D,G,S) 10 P Hilde 49	49
6 (P-25) THE SAUNDIST KID (17)(D,G,S) 10 R Buckler 10 10	66
7 (302) JUVENILE (11) 10 Wells 5 10	L Aspell 86
8 (240) BRAVE SPIRIT (18)(C,F) 10 Tizard 5 10	S Durack 78
9 (240) BRAVE SPIRIT (18)(C,F) 10 Tizard 5 10	S Durack 78
10 (240) BRAVE SPIRIT (18)(C,F) 10 Tizard 5 10	S Durack 78

Star Betting: 3-4 Wild Spirit, 3 Flinders, 7 Just Anvil, 8 Over Zealous, Brave Spirit, 10 Kittencat, Sunday Savist, 12 The Saundist Kid.

STARFORM: THE SAUNDIST KID Dgr: Over Zealous

4.10 SHARP MINDS HANDICAP HURDLE

Class E (10 furlongs) 2m4f (9 runners) £3,348

1 (424) RAKASSA (12)(H) 10 Marners 5 11	A Jenkins 71
2 (243) KAROO (8) 1 Nichols to 10	M Fitzgerald 81
3 (360) DIAMONDS WILL DO (F19)(BF,D,G,S) 10 Miss V Williams 7 11	77
4 (483) MAKULU (17)(C) 10 Marners 5 11	N Feilly 51
5 (304) EAU PURE (F19)(D,G,S) 10 G Moore 7 11	J E Moore 70
6 (P-22) WHO CARES WINS (F20)(D,G,S) 10 Jenkins 8 11	A McCoy 68
7 (0002) CENTRAL COMMITTEE (21)(C,D,G,S) 10 P Hilde 49	49
8 (0008) LICKY (17)(P) 10 Hedges 7 10	R Johnson 72
9 (424) DUNKER (107)(F) 10 Clegg 7 10	P Brennan 31
10 (0002) CENTRAL COMMITTEE (21)(C,D,G,S) 10 P Hilde 49	49

Star Betting: 7-2 Who Cares Wins, 5 Makulu, Central Committee, 11-2 Young Dancer, 15-2 Eau Pure, 7 Diamonds Will Do, 8 Rakassa, 14 others.

STARFORM: MAKULU Dgr: Central Committee

TOP TRAINERS (with runners) N Callaghan 15 winners, (23% strike rate), +£16.81, M Channon 14, (13%), +£26.89, E Dunlop 12, (12%), -£30.63, M Bell 12, (10%), -£37.55, J Dunlop 11, (19%), -£20.15, J Noseda 10, (23%), -£10.91, P Harris 9, (10%), -£39.89, P Evans 8, (12%), +£15.00, M Tompkins 8, (6%), -£34.50, W Jarvis 8, (17%), -£7.52, Mrs S O'Brien 8, (7%), +£58.50, R Guest 5, (14%), +£68.88, J W Payne 6, (14%), +£22.00, J Eustace 6, (11%), +£10.33, P L Gilligan 5, (11%), +£12.25.

2.00 E.B.F. SHARP MINDS AT BETFAIR MAIDEN STAKES

Class D3 2YO 6f (18 runners) £4,950

1 (17) CHILLIN OUT W Jones 9 0	M Tobutt
2 (14) HIGHEST REGARD (11) P L Gilligan 9 0	D Fox 51
3 (1) DE KRULLING (6) P Chapple-Hyam 9 0	A McCarthy 26
4 (5) LAKE CAREZZA (28) J Noseda 9 0	E Ahern 23
5 (13) O PHYSICAL (14) M A Parnell 9 0	D Holland
6 (17) RED APACHE (39) J Collings 9 0	P Robinson
7 (10) SUIVEZ MOI P Chapple-Hyam 9 0	J Quinn
8 (6) WESTLAND (14) M A Parnell 9 0	K Fallon 32
9 (15) ANGEL RIVER (14) M A Parnell 9 0	M Henry
10 (16) AUTUMN DAZE (11) M Ryan 8 9	L Keniry 31
11 (3) BINTY (7) J Sparring 8 9	S Hitchcott
12 (10) GRAND ROUSE (10) M Ryan 8 9	P Robinson 10
13 (2) HELEN HOPE (10) M Tompkins 8 9	S Hitchcott
14 (18) LACE BELLE (10) M Ryan 8 9	S Hitchcott
15 (9) MISS HERMIONE (20) M S Dunnett 8 9	D Corby 31
16 (10) ROCK FEVER (21) R Guest 8 12	S Whitworth 44
17 (2) 0000 ROCKY GIRL (9) M Ryan 8 9	J Fanning
18 (10) STAGE SCHOOL M Johnston 8 9	

Star Betting: 9-4 Westland, 5-2 Lacey, 14-1 Parnell, 7-2 Stage School, 6 Suivez Mo, 16 Physical, 20 Chillin Out, Helen Hope, 25 others.

STARFORM: WESTLAND Danger: Lake Carezza

2.30 SHARP MINDS STALLING STAKES

Class G4 3YO 1m31f10yds (7 runners) £2,590

1 (4) 000000 ZAFPU (26)(F) 10 Marners 5 11	P Cosgrave 35
2 (2020) GO GREEN (24)(F) 10 P Hilde 49	P Robinson 44
3 (4) 000000 BEBOPKID (30) S Powell 8 12	E Ahern 9
4 (2) 0000 HAT TRICK MAN (66) J Alhurst 8 12	J Quinn
5 (4) 000000 RIVER OF DIAMONDS (21) R Guest 8 12	K Fallon 28
6 (10) 0000 APRON (16) M Ryan 8 9	M Dwyer 37
7 (7) 0000 POETRY N PASSION (11) C Ozer 8 7	J Egan 38

Star Betting: 7-2 River of Diamonds, 3 Hat Trick Man, 7-2 Go Green, 7 Zafpu, 8 Apron, 10 Bebopkiddly, 14-1 Powell, 8-2 Stage School, 7-2 Stage School, 6 Suivez Mo, 16 Physical, 20 Chillin Out, Helen Hope, 25 others.

BEST DRAWN: Hat Trick Man (drawn 2) & Bebopkiddly (drawn 1) 30%.

STARFORM: HAT TRICK MAN Danger: River Of

3.00 SHARP MINDS BETFAIR MAIDEN STAKES

Class D3 2YO 1m2f (16 runners) £3,465

1 (14) 0000 CHRISTOM (2) G A Butler 9 0	J Egan 33
2 (14) CITY TRADER (19)(T) 9 Britton 9 0	P Robinson 44
3 (4) 5444 CRASP (17)(T) 9 G A Butler 9 0	J Fortune 62
4 (41) 0000 GRASP (27)(T) 9 G A Butler 9 0	S Holland 14
5 (10) 000000 MOBLER (27) 10 M Ryan 8 9	K Fallon 28
6 (6) 5 QUIZZEN (9) M Johnston 8 9	K Darley 47
7 (2) 0000 ROSECLIFF (4) A Bolding 9 0	M Dwyer 37
8 (5) SELF RESPECT J Noseda 9 0	E Ahern 9
9 (10) SILVER MOND (9) M Ryan 8 9	K Fallon 28
10 (7) 00 SILVER SON (37) J Dunlop 9 0	D O'Neill 15
11 (3) 00 WESTFIELD BOY (21) J L Gifford 9 0	Steven Harrison 77
12 (10) 000000 CELTIC PROMISE (14) M Ryan 8 9	J Quinn 33
13 (1) 0000 MISTERS SISTER (16)(B) J Gifford 9 0	J Mackay
14 (13) 0000 SUTLE AFFAIR (58) M Gifford 9 0	T P Queally 54
15 (10) 000000 LAVORA (25) 10 M Ryan 8 9	A McCarthy 27
16 (16) 0000 WINTER MIST (60) M Ryan 8 9	P Cosgrave

Star Betting: 11-4 Rosecliff, 4 Quizzzen, 5 Cordage, 15-2 Grasp, 8 Self Respect, 12-1 Adora, 16 Nobbler, Silver Mon, Celtic Promise, 20 others.

STARFORM: ROSECLIFF Danger: Self Respect

3.30 SHARP MINDS BETFAIR HANDICAP

Class E3 1m2f (11 runners) £3,983

1 (2)	61	MARIAS MAGIC (26)(D,S)	10	M Johnston 3 9 3	J Fanning 65
2 (8)	345444	STALEY RAY (25)(BF,D,G,S)	10	Marners 5 11	A Rutler 77
3 (7)	224100	TREAT NAKA (22)(C,F)	10	M S Dunnett 4 9 0	Joanna Badger 10
4 (10)	100000	TIGER (23)(D,G,S)	10	M Johnston 3 9 3	P Robinson 44
5 (10)	421262	DOUBLE RANSOM (80)(A,G,S,B)	10	M S Stubbs 5 8 11	K Fallon 28
6 (5)	65103	GINGKO (10)(D2,A,G,S)	10	P Webster 7 8 9	D O'Neill 49
7 (11)	000000	KIM EMPEROR (10)(D,G,S)	10	P L Gilligan 7 8 8	A Mackay 56
8 (6)	203060	REAP (24)(A,G,S)	J Pearce 6 8 5	J Quinn 68	
9 (3)	0003	MISTER RHYTHM (25)	10	BF 3 8 5	C Catlin 44
10 (9)	0000	COUNT DOWN (25)	10	M Dwyer 10 10 10	M Dwyer 10
11 (9)	40-0040	RAYAJOGA (10)	10	Temple 37 13	M Henry 66
Star Betting: - 7-2 Marias Magic, 4 Street Life, 6 Double Ransom, 13-2 Ginkgo, 8 Count Bours, 10 Tiger, Tiger, Kim Emperor, 14 others.					

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WINNERS AND PRICES

HAYDOCK

1.05 (2m) 1. BOLLIN ANNABEL (D O'Meara 4-1 fav), 2. Commemoration Day (P King 66-1), 3. Tall The Trees (A P McCoy 9-1 fav), 5.1, 17 ran. J. Easterby, Malton.
Tote: £25.00; pl £1.80, £21.40, £1.70.
exacta: £224.00; cf: £205.97.
1.35 (2m 6f) 1. CALVIC (N Fahy 8-1), 2.1 Hear Thunder (D Hitchcott 6-1), 3. Up The Glen (P J Murphy 7-2), Trained 11-4 fav. J. 181.6 ran. P. George, Slad.
Tote: £12.30; pl £4.50, £3.60, exacta: £50.10; cf: £48.10.
2.05 (2m 4f) 1. RED NOSE LADY (P King 12-1), 2. Always Rainbows (A Ross 25-1), 3. Boing Boing (N Fahy 66-1), Lucky Judge 5-2 fav. Nk. Hd. 13 ran. J. Jefferson, Malton.
Tote: £15.10; pl £3.40, £7.90, £15.60, exacta: £343.20; cf: £257.59, tricast: £17,234.36. NR: Walsingham.
2.40 (2m) 1. NOBLE PASAO (G Lee 14-1), 2. Cyborg De Son (N Hannity 20-1), 3. Juke Black (R Garrity even fav), 21, 1/4l. 8 ran. A. Turrell, Malton.
Tote: £16.60; pl £5.30, £10.60, £1.20, exacta: £56.50; cf: £212.38, tricast: £311.51.
2.15 (2m 4f) 1. BLACK FROST (D Elsworth 9-4 fav), 2. Christopher (G Llewellyn 4-1), 3. History (G Lee 9-2), 11, 61. 5 ran. Mrs S. Smith, Bingley.
Tote: £13.10; pl £1.60, £2.30, exacta: £10.70; cf: £16.80.
3.45 (2m) 1. REBEL RHYTHM (D Elsworth 5-2), 2. Investment Affair (G Lee 14-1), 3. Montevell (A P McCoy 4-1), Va Vavoom 2-1 fav. 3/4l, 2/4l, 14 ran. Mrs S. J. Smith, Bingley.
Tote: £3.00; pl £1.80, £2.10, £1.60, exacta: £42.00; cf: £31.15.
4.15 (2m) 1. VILLON (A Dobbin 4-7 fav), 2. Galahad (G Llewellyn 10-1), 3. Jethro Tull (N Hannity 33-1), 2/4l, Nk.
Tote: £3.00; pl £1.80, £2.10, £1.60, exacta: £42.00; cf: £31.15.

NOTTINGHAM

1.25 (6f) 1. STARCHY (J Fanning 12-1), 2. Allegretto (J F Egan 20-1), 3. Hidden Jewel (G Gibbons 4-4 fav), 9, 14 ran. M. Johnston, Middleham.
Tote: £10.70; pl £2.50, £4.10, £1.10, exacta: £129.50; cf: £225.47.
1.55 (6f) 1. PENANG SAPPHIRE (C Clarke 4-1), 2. Cress Martin Dwyer 4-1, 3. Doffed (S Sanders 9-2), 4. Task's Muppet (J P McDonald 66-1), Hits Only Club 2 fav. 1/4l, 1/4l, 16 ran. A. Butler, Eblebury.
Tote: £31.00; pl £13.60, £1.90, £1.80, £14.70, exacta: £323.40; cf: £185.27, tricast: £9,202.32. NR: Go Mo.
2.25 (1m) 1. TANQUETTS Hills 11-1, 2. Queen's Power (C. Collin 4-1), 3. Conular (P Robinson 6-1), Cress 3-1 fav. 1/4l, 1/4l, 8 ran. D. Duggan, Armadale.
Tote: £5.80; pl £2.70, £1.70, £2.00, exacta: £31.00; cf: £26.30.
2.00 (1m 2f) 1. RYAN'S FUTURE (S Sanders 15-2), 2. McQueen (J F Egan 9-4 fav), 3. Manbina (S Hitchcott 11-1), 4. Band (G Gibbons 10-1), 4/4l, 1/4l, 14 ran. A. Jekhurst, Epsom.
Tote: £9.10; pl £2.30, £1.60, £3.40, £3.60, exacta: £40.70, tricast: £406.30, cf: £22.69, tricast: £191.32.
3.35 (1m) 1. ST. ANDREWS (P Robinson 10-1), 2. Fine Silver (G Pullman 100-30), 3. Dandons (S Sanders 7-1), 3/4l, 3/4l, 8 ran. M. Jarvis, Newmarket.
Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.10, £2.30, exacta: £5.00; cf: £3.43.
4.05 (1m) 1. POPPY'S PRINCESS (P Hanagan 5-1), 2. Wizard of Us (Liam Jones 25-1), 3. Concorde Lecture (K Clarke 4-1), 4. Time to Regret (K Fallon 7-2 fav), 3/4l, Hd. 16 ran. R. Fahy, Malton.
Tote: £3.30; pl £2.20, £3.00, £1.40, £1.60, exacta: £17.70; cf: £13.23, tricast: £583.85. NR: Dangerous Beans, Grand Rapids.
QUADROPS: £5.60
PRICES: £18.60
JACKPOT: not won, £142,109.00 carried over to Yarmouth.

TOWESTER

1.15 (2m) 1. THE LAST MOHICAN (J E Dennis 5-4 fav), 2. Dramatic Quest (D Jenkins 7-2), 3. Circle Of Vowes (J A Jenkins 7-2), 3/4l, 27l. 6 ran. P. Howling, Newmarket.
Tote: £4.30; pl £1.80, £1.60, exacta: £9.00; cf: £7.80. NR: Forbearing, Wild Power.
1.45 (2m 6f) 1. MAYBESEVEN (J P Robinson 10-1), 2. Blunham Hill (P King 7-2), 3. Runaway Bishop (R Hickson 11-8 fav), 11l, Nk. 13 ran. D. Stratford, Stratford.
Tote: £9.50; pl £3.00, £2.20, exacta: £24.40; cf: £43.00.
2.15 (2m) 1. JONANADU (J A Jenkins 7-1), 2. Keepers Mead (A Thornton 11-4 fav), 3. Tribal Dancer (S Thomas 7-2), 3/4l, 7 ran. H. Manners, Swindon.
Tote: £9.50; pl £3.00, £2.20, exacta: £24.40; cf: £43.00.

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ROYAL ALPHABET put down an early marker for Cheltenham Festival honours with an impressive debut over fences at Thurles. The Willie Mullins-trained six-year-old is now as low as 12-1 (from 20s) with Ladbroke's for the Irish Independent Arkle Chase.

Richard Johnson took a nasty tumble in the Haydock parade ring from the Phillip Hobbs-trained Walsingham when the horse reared and came over backwards on him. Johnson didn't think he was badly injured but went for x-rays. Walsingham was withdrawn.

14 ran. L. Lango, Carruthersdown.
Tote: £9.50; pl £1.10, £2.80, £2.10, exacta: £14.40; cf: £7.20.
QUADROPS: £38.20
PLACEPO: £38.80
NOTTINGHAM
1.25 (6f) 1. STARCHY (J Fanning 12-1), 2. Allegretto (J F Egan 20-1), 3. Hidden Jewel (G Gibbons 4-4 fav), 9, 14 ran. M. Johnston, Middleham.
Tote: £10.70; pl £2.50, £4.10, £1.10, exacta: £129.50; cf: £225.47.
1.55 (6f) 1. PENANG SAPPHIRE (C Clarke 4-1), 2. Cress Martin Dwyer 4-1, 3. Doffed (S Sanders 9-2), 4. Task's Muppet (J P McDonald 66-1), Hits Only Club 2 fav. 1/4l, 1/4l, 16 ran. A. Butler, Eblebury.
Tote: £31.00; pl £13.60, £1.90, £1.80, £14.70, exacta: £323.40; cf: £185.27, tricast: £9,202.32. NR: Go Mo.
2.25 (1m) 1. TANQUETTS Hills 11-1, 2. Queen's Power (C. Collin 4-1), 3. Conular (P Robinson 6-1), Cress 3-1 fav. 1/4l, 1/4l, 8 ran. D. Duggan, Armadale.
Tote: £5.80; pl £2.70, £1.70, £2.00, exacta: £31.00; cf: £26.30.
2.00 (1m 2f) 1. RYAN'S FUTURE (S Sanders 15-2), 2. McQueen (J F Egan 9-4 fav), 3. Manbina (S Hitchcott 11-1), 4. Band (G Gibbons 10-1), 4/4l, 1/4l, 14 ran. A. Jekhurst, Epsom.
Tote: £9.10; pl £2.30, £1.60, £3.40, £3.60, exacta: £40.70, tricast: £406.30, cf: £22.69, tricast: £191.32.
3.35 (1m) 1. ST. ANDREWS (P Robinson 10-1), 2. Fine Silver (G Pullman 100-30), 3. Dandons (S Sanders 7-1), 3/4l, 3/4l, 8 ran. M. Jarvis, Newmarket.
Tote: £1.80; pl £1.10, £1.10, £2.30, exacta: £5.00; cf: £3.43.
4.05 (1m) 1. POPPY'S PRINCESS (P Hanagan 5-1), 2. Wizard of Us (Liam Jones 25-1), 3. Concorde Lecture (K Clarke 4-1), 4. Time to Regret (K Fallon 7-2 fav), 3/4l, Hd. 16 ran. R. Fahy, Malton.
Tote: £3.30; pl £2.20, £3.00, £1.40, £1.60, exacta: £17.70; cf: £13.23, tricast: £583.85. NR: Dangerous Beans, Grand Rapids.
QUADROPS: £5.60
PRICES: £18.60
JACKPOT: not won, £142,109.00 carried over to Yarmouth.

WOLVERHAMPTON

4.10 (1m 1f) 1. WRENLANE (T Hamilton 3-1 fav), 2. Lytham (S Drowne 12-1), 3. Sares (P Lynch 16-1), Hd. 1/4l, 13 ran. R. Fahy, Malton.
Tote: £3.80; pl £1.10, £7.90, £12.60, exacta: £51.00; cf: £39.35.
4.35 (1m 1f) 1. QORTIAN (G Baker 9-1), 2. Molo-Baco (S Drowne 7-2 fav), 3. Ziet d'Alsace (D Nolan 9-2), 1/4l, Nk. 13 ran. B. Wesley, Wantage.
Tote: £9.60; pl £2.40, £2.20, £1.80, exacta: £56.40; cf: £39.92. NR: Rebel Raider.
5.00 (1m 1f) 1. RIBBONS AND BOWS (D Sweeney 16-1), 2. Factual (L G Baker 4-1), 3. Sienna Sunset (B Swarbrick 8-1), Montara 2-1 fav. Nk, 13 ran. K. C. C. Horsham.
Tote: £18.80; pl £7.60, £2.30, £3.40, exacta: £99.00; cf: £91.53.
5.10 (1m 4f) 1. ANOTHER CON (R Winston 10-1), 2. Pappete (S Drowne 11-2), 3. Maria Bonita (S Whitworth 13-1), 2/4l, Nk. 12 ran. Mrs L. Shubb, Malton.
Tote: £10.30; pl £3.10, £2.60, £3.00, exacta: £87.90; cf: £62.15, tricast: £394.51.

1.15 (2m) 1. THE LAST MOHICAN (J E Dennis 5-4 fav), 2. Dramatic Quest (D Jenkins 7-2), 3. Circle Of Vowes (J A Jenkins 7-2), 3/4l, 27l. 6 ran. P. Howling, Newmarket. Tote: £4.30; pl £1.80, £1.60, exacta: £9.00; cf: £7.80. NR: Forbearing, Wild Power. 1.45 (2m 6f) 1. MAYBESEVEN (J P Robinson 10-1), 2. Blunham Hill (P King 7-2), 3. Runaway Bishop (R Hickson 11-8 fav), 11l, Nk. 13 ran. D. Stratford, Stratford. Tote: £9.50; pl £3.00, £2.20, exacta: £24.40; cf: £43.00. 2.15 (2m) 1. JONANADU (J A Jenkins 7-1), 2. Keepers Mead (A Thornton 11-4 fav), 3. Tribal Dancer (S Thomas 7-2), 3/4l, 7 ran. H. Manners, Swindon. Tote: £9.50; pl £3.00, £2.20, exacta: £24.40; cf: £43.00.

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Easy to sort out

THE credibility of the fledgling European Nations Cup is under the spotlight at Warrington on Sunday. England - who have racked up 140 points in two games - face Ireland in the final.

The England team is crammed with Super League stars while Ireland are mostly made up with a mix of National League part-timers and amateurs. It is certain to be another mismatch.

The Nations Cup is a good idea and it must carry on... but without England.

Let's stop pluckin' around

A bad sign...

BRAVE... battling... plucky... these are words that have been used regularly to describe Great Britain's Test performances for more than a decade.

But none of them will be worth the breath if the Lions are beaten by New Zealand tomorrow. Another hard luck story will cut no ice with anybody.

Burst

The growing belief that Britain are getting ever closer to Australia - it's 32 years since we were world champions - will burst like a bubble if the Kiwis win the Tri-Nations tie at Huddersfield.

And as Britain have managed only one win in the last two games against New Zealand, that is hardly unthinkable.

Ex-players, coaches, phone-in

INSIDE RUGBY LEAGUE with Peter Wilson

bores - they've all been giving coach Brian Noble some advice since Saturday's defeat by Australia that he must be hearing it in his sleep.

He should start with Danny McGuire... put Paul Sculthorpe in the pack... change the hooker... switch Gareth Ellis to the centres - the words of so-called wisdom have been endless.

Noble and his players were upbeat after that last-minute mugging in Manchester and there was genuine sympathy

for Great Britain - even among some Australians.

Tomorrow is another day and another story. Coming second to Australia has long been a fact of international rugby league life even if the current squad are anything but unbeatable - lagging behind the Kiwis isn't.

Prize

Victory may not have been a must last weekend and even another defeat tomorrow would not end Britain's hopes of lifting the £100,000 top prize - winning their last two matches at Wigan and Hull would prevent an all southern-hemisphere final at Elland Road.

It's that simple... but the coach and his players will have a heck of a job persuading the fans to stay upbeat if they lose again.



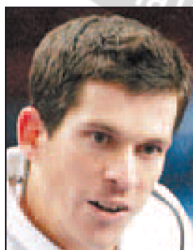
WIDNES and promoted Leigh are not letting the grass grow under their feet as they both scour the world for recruits.

Widnes have added little-known Tongan Andrew Emelio and Leigh have signed an unfamiliar name in Samoan Marc Leafa.

Well-off Wigan, meanwhile, are chasing the signature of one of the current Australian tourists.

Widnes and Leigh, incidentally, are the bookies' favourites for relegation.

Wonder why?



HENMAN: Shock defeat

Tim's Paris crash

from IAIN STEWART

TIM HENMAN aims to ensure he doesn't have a problem in Houston after his shock exit from the Paris Masters yesterday.

Henman, ranked seventh in the world, lost 7-5 6-1 to unseeded Russian Mikhail Youzhny in just 77 minutes in their third-round match.

And he must now rely on the Masters in Houston in mid-December to bring a good year to a close with some more success.

The 30-year-old British No.1 admitted: "Mikhail played great tennis and put a lot of pressure on my serve, and he probably deserved to win the match.

Rest

"I never find anything positive about losing, but at least I will have a few days off to rest and clear my thoughts before the Masters."

Henman had looked in superb form on Tuesday when he thrashed Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan, but it was a different story against Youzhny.

The only opportunity for Henman came when he was 5-4 up in the first set. Youzhny missed two forehands to give the defending champion a 0-30 lead.

But the Russian raised his game and drew level at 5-5 before breaking Henman's serve to take the first set and then romp home in the second.

Henman added: "I had practised with him a few times before and I have seen the way he's been playing recently. He is in top form at the moment."

FLU KO FEAR BUGS BRIAN



Dart duo champin' at the bit

PROMOTER Barry Hearn has to keep rival world champions Phil Taylor (left) and Andy Fordham apart as they gear up for their big-money showdown.

The two darts aces will battle it out for a cool £100,000 in a televised head-to-head showdown at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet, Essex, on November 21.

The match between Taylor, the PDC champ, and BDO holder Fordham will be televised live on Sky Box Office.

GREAT BRITAIN'S rugby league squad have been hit by a virus as they prepare for tomorrow's crucial Tri-Nations clash with New Zealand at Huddersfield.

The same illness ruled out Paul Johnson and Sean O'Loughlin from last Saturday's defeat against Australia in Manchester, and skipper Andrew Farrell was among "three or four" players sent home this week after becoming too sick to train.

Coach Brian Noble has been forced to delay finalising his plans because of the sickness.

"It's a cold and flu virus and it has been disruptive," he said last night. "We have tried to keep on top of it but it seems to have ricocheted from one player to the next."

"We're still hopeful that everybody will be fine and, with what happened last week, we've got to prepare for any eventuality."

"We are trying to use the whole squad to the best of its ability."

Noble has named a 19-strong squad that includes O'Loughlin and Johnson, who have both now recovered from the bug, for the match at the Galpharm Stadium.

Switch

Dual-code international Iestyn Harris and uncapped hooker Mickey Higham are the other players added to last week's squad, while centre Chev Walker and second rower Stephen Wild are omitted. There is no place for utility man Karl Pratt, who was called into the 24 at the start of the week as a replacement for Kris Radlinski.

Noble will be tempted to switch Paul Sculthorpe from stand-off to his normal loose forward role, but he also has the option of bringing in O'Loughlin, who would have won his first cap against Australia but for the virus.

The Wigan youngster is desperately hoping he has not missed his big chance. "I was gutted on Friday

by MIKE PLATT

night when I came down with it bad," he said.

"I was still hoping it would clear up in time but it was not to be and the doctor sent me home."

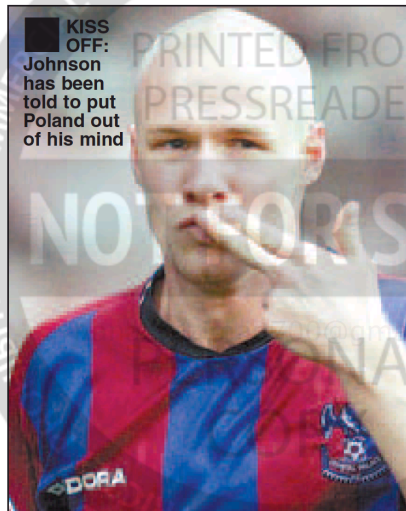
New Zealand coach Daniel Anderson has reshuffled his side for the 100th Test against Great Britain to specifically deal with the Lions' strengths.

Bradford's Shontayne Hape will make his Test debut taking over the left-wing spot from Bulls' team-mate Lesley Vainikolo, who is ruled out after knee surgery.

And Clinton Toopi, now fully recovered from thumb surgery, takes over from Paul Whaitira at left centre.

GB squad: P Wellens (St Helens), S Reardon (Bradford), P Johnson (Bradford), B Carney (Wigan), M Gleeson (Warrington), K Senior (Leeds), I Harris (Bradford), D McGuire (Leeds), S Long (St Helens), M Higham (St Helens), T Newton (Wigan), S Fielden (Bradford), A Moleley (Sydney Roosters), R Bailey (Leeds), A Farrell (Wigan, capt), G Ellis (Wakefield), J Peacock (Bradford), S O'Loughlin (Wigan), P Sculthorpe (St Helens).

New Zealand team: B Webb (NZ Warriors), F Moli (NZ Warriors), N Vagana (Crusaders), C Toopi (NZ Warriors), S Hape (Bradford), V Anderson (NZ Warriors), T Leuluai (NZ Warriors), J Cayless (Sydney Roosters), L Anderson (NZ Warriors), R Wili (Canberra, capt), L Swann (Warrington), D Kiveli (Melbourne), SB Williams (Canterbury).



KISS OFF: Johnson has been told to put Poland out of his mind

Polish off your skills here, Andy

by SIMON JOHNSON

CRYSTAL PALACE boss Iain Dowie has told hotshot striker Andy Johnson to forget about playing for Poland and focus on the Premiership.

Johnson is looking to win international honours after helping fire Palace out of the bottom three with eight goals this season.

The 23-year-old is eligible to play for Poland, as well as England, due to having a Polish grandfather.

But Dowie insists Johnson would be better off working with him at the club's training ground for now.

He said: "I don't want him to go away with Poland. I want to nurture and develop him here."

"I'd rather Andy spend Wednesday afternoons with me out on the training ground than being away with another coach."

"It will be his decision and if he makes it I will back him 100 per cent. But I'd hold back if I was him."

"I think he needs to concentrate and focus on being in the Premier League."

"If you start getting distracted by other things, the level of your performance dips."

"You can be embarrassed at this level very quickly. Andy has got eight goals and deserves the credit - but can he compete regularly with Thierry Henry? No, he's a little away from that."

Targets

Johnson has been linked with a move to Liverpool after their new signing Djibril Cisse broke his leg and was ruled out for the season.

Liverpool boss Rafael Benitez is determined to sign a striker when the transfer window opens in January and Johnson is believed to be one of his targets.

But Dowie added: "They haven't made a knocking yet but if they made a ridiculous offer I will recommend to the chairman that we don't accept it."

"I'm all about developing this club. We have to keep players like Andy because I didn't come here to sell crown jewels."

"I want to build a foundation for people to come and look at our crown jewels."

Bentley bashed by Nigel

NORWICH boss Nigel Worthington has ripped into his under-achieving winger David Bentley.

The 20-year-old, who is on a season-long loan at Carrow Road from Arsenal, has lost his place in the first-team squad following a string of poor performances.

Dipped

And Worthington said: "You have to work hard and be fully focused on the job to be in the first team at Norwich, so the message to David is very clear."

"He made a very good start at the club but his form has definitely dipped lately and he needs to get it back. He is still young and we will be patient with him."

"But it's down to him now to win back his place in the side."

SERIOUSLY football

Wigan boss Paul Jewell on why

My CV stands



CLAP HAPPY: Paul Jewell after Wigan's win at Leeds last Sunday

EXACTLY A year ago, Wigan beat Crystal Palace 5-0 to stay top of the old First Division and send the Eagles perilously close to the bottom of the table.

At the end of the season, Palace went up and Wigan finished seventh.

Paul Jewell reminded me of that raw statistic quickly into our conversation. He constantly brought it up, even though Wigan sit top of the Championship and are the only unbeaten side in the country.

"I'm in an unfair business," said Jewell, who collected his second manager of the month award yesterday. "The pressure on us has never been greater. Everyone today has an opinion about football and we are the men who have to get results."

"Dace Jones at Wolves was sacked this week - who will be next? There is only one thing certain, it won't be long before another chairman panics."

"Arsene Wenger was quoted the other day saying that had they lost to Southampton, there would have been a crisis. 'We would all like his kind of crisis.'

"Six months into this job we were having a hard time and I knew some of the players were looking at me and thinking, 'This bloke won't last long'. We had lost 5-1 to Wrexham and they wanted me out."

Courage

"The chairman could have panicked but my bloke (Dave Whelan) told the players I was going nowhere. It was a big career moment for me and the club. He showed courage and loyalty and told me he wanted stability. We set long-term targets."

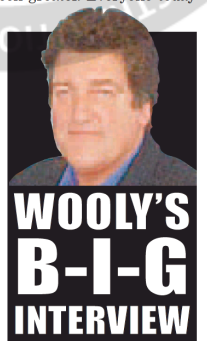
"Some of the players were too old... not ambitious enough. I was then allowed to do things my way."

"All any managers asks for is a fair crack of the whip and that is what I have been given."

"Look, no one wins anything in November."

"But we are enjoying ourselves and what we are experiencing is the dream. You must never take that away from football. Never."

"My dream was always to play for Liverpool."



WOOLLY'S B-I-G INTERVIEW

That's gone now but without dreams football is nothing."

Jewell once took Bradford into the Premiership and kept them there before walking out and going to Sheffield Wednesday, where he was eventually sacked.

He is one of the most realistic managers I have met. He is straight, honest and Wigan reflect him."

He added: "What is success? I gauge it as improving your football club, not just winning trophies."

"At the end of the first season at Bradford we had to beat Liverpool to stay up, while they were going for a Champions League spot. We won and that let Leeds into Europe."

"We are not talking a long time ago here and then last Sunday, Wigan went to Leeds as favourites and beat them. How come? What happened in the middle to Leeds?"

"Graham Taylor said to me recently he was glad he was not starting his career as a manager and I understand where he's coming from. It's pressure, pressure, pressure. I walked

Sock it to me, Jason

by DAVE ARMITAGE

JASON KOUMAS has been told to pull his socks up - or risk ruining his hopes of being a big star.

Midfielder Koumas finds himself struggling to make West Brom's starting line-up these days despite being the former record-signing at £2.25m. Koumas fell out with recently-sacked manager Gary Megson - the man who signed him - after rows about his work-rate.

Now the Welshman has been warned again he is in danger of being an unfulfilled talent if he does not pull his finger out.

Albion stand-in boss Frank Burrows reckons Koumas has virtually everything it takes to be a true Premiership star but believes there

is one big question mark hanging over the 25-year-old.

Old-hand Burrows insists no matter who is Albion boss, Koumas will struggle to live up to his potential if he is not prepared to buckle down and graft.

Talent

Burrows said: "He's a talent but talent on its own is just not enough."

"You have to work your socks off as well and Jason knows what he has to do in that department because I've told him."

"When he's on the ball there's nothing I can teach him and when it

comes to passing there's nothing I can talk to him about. But his attitude to work off the ball is what you have to look at."

"He's part of a team and the whole team defends."

"I've made that clear to him and if he can get his head around that then West Brom will have one of the best midfielders in the game."

"I'm not slaughtering him or blasting him but the lad knows he has to work a lot harder."

Former Tranmere star is Koumas likely to miss out again in tomorrow's clash with fellow strugglers Southampton, but Darren Purse is set to return after suspension.

5 FOR FUN

- 1 Which Formula One driver won this year's Brazilian Grand Prix, the final race of the season?
- 2 Which former world heavyweight champion was nicknamed The Easton Assassin?
- 3 The All-England club at Wimbledon is often referred to by which London area post-code?
- 4 Which centre-back now with a foreign club, won his first England cap against Bulgaria in 1999?
- 5 Which British city hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1970 and 1986?

ANSWERS: See Page 77

England's only unbeaten side can go all the way up alongside anyone's... my dream is to go as far as I can as a manager

away from Bradford when the chairman (Geoffrey Richmond) said we'd had a poor season. When the chairman says things like that you know there is only one winner and so it was time to go.

"I spent eight months at Sheffield Wednesday and not even Our Lord could have turned that round.

"They tied one foot behind my back, put a ton weight on the other and asked me to swim the Channel. It was an impossible job and it was the wrong time and wrong place for me.

"You only have to look at Wednesday today to realise the size of the job yet they remain a big club - the biggest outside the Premiership - and Paul Sturrock is a good appointment for them."

Ambitious

Jewell smiles when he is still talked about as one of the bright young managers in the game.

"The other thing they tar me with is that I am only a manager of unfashionable clubs. But you can only manage what they give you.

"My CV stands up alongside anyone's and my dream is to go as far as I can as a manager.

"I don't have a yearning to manage United or Liverpool, although I am fiercely ambitious.

"Things change so quickly. Who would have thought that at the start of a season, people would say that Liverpool have no chance of winning the title?

"There is talk of some wanting a European League but that is what the



EXCEPTIONAL: Hotshots Nathan Ellington (left) and Jason Roberts

Champions League is now about Arsenal, Manchester United and Chelsea.

"Wigan are top of the Championship and dare anyone tell me if we go up we'll come straight down.

"What we have got here is people who want to go into work every time they wake up in the morning.

"We do not have a lot of money and are managing on a small squad. But we are buzzing and smiling and enjoying ourselves.

"There are many who don't believe we can keep going but Wigan are honest, hardworking and realistic. Why shouldn't we be

in the Premiership?" That honesty, he feels, is perfectly summed up by his free-scoring front duo - Nathan Ellington and Jason Roberts.

Harder

"They have been exceptional," said Jewell, before adding: "Turn the clock back five years and examine the changes that have taken place. It gets harder and harder to be a successful manager.

"We asked Stoke to put this week's game back 24 hours and they refused. I don't blame them. It's dog-eat-dog and the matches come thick and fast. We

went there and won and that was two big away wins in three days.

"You just keep going and hope that as a manager you get support when things go wrong. Not enough do.

"I'm pleased but not excited. You only get three points for beating Leeds, Stoke, West Ham or anyone else. They'll all be lining up to end our run and that adds to the pressure.

"I remember where we were a year ago - exactly where we are today. So much more can happen and that is the story of football management."

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH



JIM JOY: Jimmy Bullard after scoring in Wigan's win over Leeds

TEXT MANIACS

Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

☐ SCOUSE deserve to be kicked out of the cup, if that was us we would be so come on the FA, sort it out. millwall bob.

☐ So u scouse dont like the Hillsbro song? shame u shud av thought abt man united & the munich song now u know how us REDS feel. RED DEVIL.

☐ U scousers make me sick. How quickly u forget those munich chants. pez kstand red.

☐ 2 flippa trfc, even if evertens good start does come crashing 2 an end! At least we'll still finish 2 divisions higher than yr pathetic outfit ever will! tonyefc.

☐ van nist roy 3 Match ban for foul on cole what about the attempted kick in head on ronaldo by henry so shut up gooners. kevin.

☐ To lisa man utd. There moaning so much coz there southern softies. northern boys only moan in bed! dave the red.

☐ DAWN.THINK U FIND AFC WON AWARD 4 BEST DISCIPLINE LAST SEASON. CHECK YR FACTS. JAMESAFC.

☐ 49 and out not the treble is it! wayney t.

☐ sad to see lord megson leave sir bobby for job. leicester fans megsons your man!! baggie boy.

☐ Lets all laugh at charlton pathetic - cant even beat us in the worthless cup & we put out our reserves! Haha losers! ricki cpfc.

☐ 3 OR 4 SIGNINGS IN JAN WINDOW. TOP 6 FOR SURE. TOFFEEMAN ANDY.

☐ maca i c mr blue seat and his fam were out in force again at the council house against the arse, top fans! Red army.

☐ Poor west ham fans went mad cos they lost their cup final 2 a team that don't care about them! cyf block12.

☐ Rafas red revolution? Maybe u wil b able to fill ur ground against boro in the cup then, doubt it though. PART TIME SUPPORTERS! MACA Wythenshawe.

☐ Curbs youve lost the plot go now while youve still got some credibility. A worried addick. Mr hutchins.

☐ Bring on the gunners. The eagles will give wenger something to moan about. hutch, Bromley.

☐ To lumpy Leeds fan. Who are you to comment on man u winning nowt. Face it leeds aren't in prem and wont be ever again. Smug Defc deano.

☐ Who wrote report on mfc v norwich? No mention of hitting post or penalty not given, city robbed by dodgy ref again. rob city.

☐ He's moyes, he's moyes, he's davey davey moyes he's got red hair but we don't care, davey davey moyes. sutfy etc 4ever.

☐ arjen robben - one divin b****d, has he been watching fat boy rooney. TOP GUN.

☐ millwall and liverpool fans deserve each other, neither have a record to be proud of. JIM.

☐ how much more do we have to put up with joe calzzzaghe, boring taff, and hatton fighting another stiff wot a supriz. jacko brum.

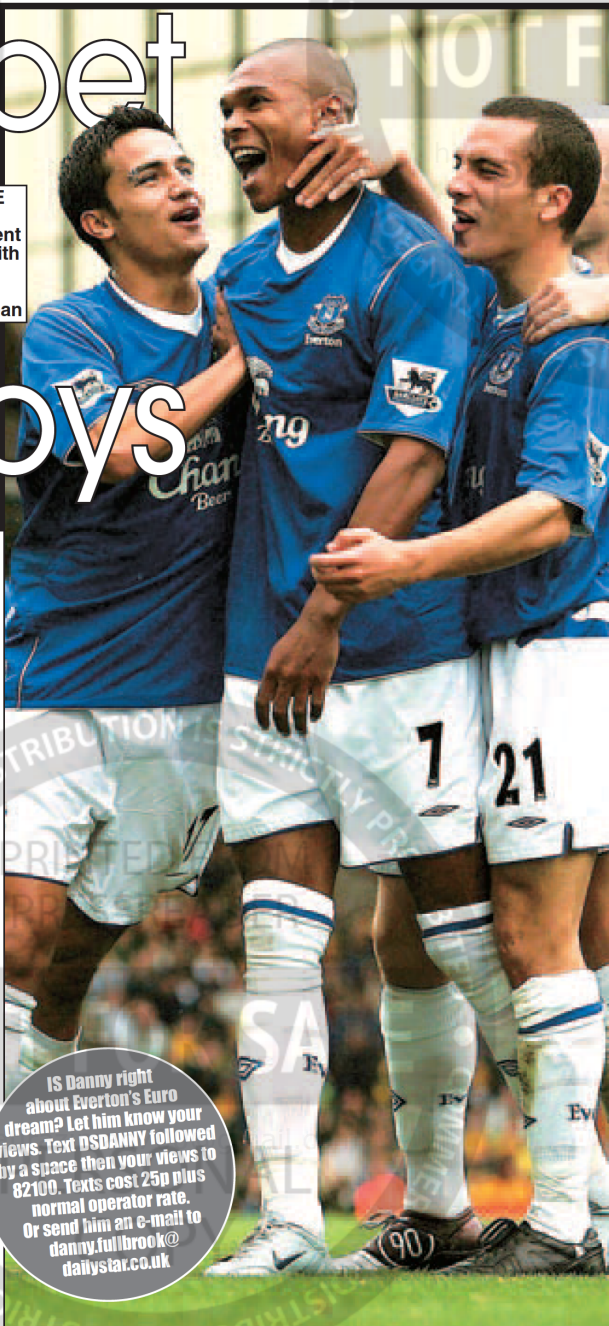
IT'S A DANNY OLD GAME

Read Chief Football Writer Danny Fullbrook every Friday



Don't Eu bet against Moyes boys

SMILE HIGH: Marcus Bent (centre) with Tim Cahill (left) and Leon Osman



EVERTON for the Champions League? You're having a laugh.

But why not? Why should a club like Everton not break into the top four places and qualify for the money-spinning competition?

It might seem a little far-fetched but just take a look at the Premiership table at the moment.

David Moyes' team have made a blistering start to the campaign, which is now a quarter of the way through.

Everton sit just three points behind Chelsea and Arsenal, and six points above Liverpool and Manchester United.

At the moment they have every right to be talking about winning the title, not just finishing in the top four.

But if we assume that is a little far-fetched and that either Arsenal or Chelsea will take the crown, then a top-four finish would still stun the Premiership.

Smile

And it would be a massive boost for all those managers out there who do not have the kind of bank balance to match their ambition.

As Moyes said this week: "It would be great if a club could succeed without the financial resources of the big three."

"I am not saying it might be us but we will try to do what we are doing with a smile on our faces."

Moyes is proving with his side that togetherness, belief, hard work and organisation can get you results.

Yes, we have seen that in the past, usually with teams who have just managed to escape relegation.

But it has been a long time since it has been enough to propel a side to the top of the Premiership – and stay there.

But surely it can be done and Moyes is having a go.

And while it sounds mad, the best thing that happened to Everton this year was selling Wayne Rooney.

His departure has allowed the rest of the team to gel as a club again.

The previous 12 months had all been about the incredible teenager.

Some might argue that it was Rooney's goals that kept them in the top flight last season.

But look how they have moved forward without the distraction of Rooney on their hands.

The England star had consumed the club – not his fault but a by-product of his talent.

He was so huge that Everton, a massive

club in their own right, could not really handle it.

The knock-on effect was that last season in this column, I questioned whether Moyes should be under more pressure about losing his job and perhaps his first season in charge was just a myth.

I am glad to see that it wasn't.

But getting rid of Rooney must have been a relief in the end.

At times, the boss was nothing more than a child minder and whatever anybody else did at Everton, all people wanted to do was talk about Rooney.

The striker will succeed at Manchester United but he will be in a position where he is not bigger than the club.

Everton did not have time to spend any of the £30m or so they will be getting for Rooney because the move came so close to the transfer window.

Arrivals

Moyes had already done his shopping, with the arrival of Ipswich's Marcus Bent and Millwall's Tim Cahill from the Championship.

But look at how he and the rest of the team at Goodison Park have galvanised the pair.

And the possibility of Moyes' men finishing in the top four this season should knock the

rest of the big guns out of their complacency.

Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle should realise they do not have a divine right to a Champions League spot.

But the more clubs like Everton that can get up the league and challenge the usual frontrunners, the better it is for English football.

So, come on you Toffees.

PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	11	8	2	1	31	12	26
Chelsea	11	8	2	1	16	3	26
Everton	11	7	2	2	14	10	23
Bolton	11	6	3	2	18	23	21
Middlesbrough	11	5	3	3	19	14	18
Liverpool	10	5	2	3	19	10	17
Man Utd	11	4	5	2	11	9	17
Newcastle	11	4	4	3	22	19	16
Portsmouth	10	4	3	3	15	12	15
Aston Villa	11	3	6	2	14	13	15
Tottenham	11	3	4	4	6	8	13
Man City	11	3	3	5	13	12	12
Charlton	11	3	3	5	10	19	12
Crystal Palace	11	3	2	6	12	15	11
Fulham	11	3	2	6	12	19	11
Birmingham	11	1	6	4	7	10	9
West Brom	11	1	5	5	9	20	8
Southampton	11	1	4	6	14	17	7
Norwich	11	0	7	4	10	18	7
Blackburn	11	1	4	6	9	24	7

IS Danny right about Everton's Euro dream? Let him know your views. Text DSDANNY followed by a space then your views to 82100. Texts cost 25p plus normal operator rate. Or send him an e-mail to danny.fullbrook@dailystar.co.uk



ALLARDYCE: Top boss

Sam-thing special

TALKING about managers doing a good job, just take a look at Sam Allardyce.

What he is doing at Bolton is incredible.

El-Hadji Diouf, who was so dismal at Liverpool, is the latest in a long line of under-performing players who have begun to resurrect their careers under Allardyce's sage guidance.

There surely can be no better English-born candidate around to be the next national team manager once Sven Goran Eriksson decides to head for pastures new.

Deal

Allardyce is inspirational, he has shown he knows how to deal with big-time players and is taking on some of the best

at their own game – and beating them.

People may say he has no experience in managing in Europe but do we really think that is what being England manager is all about?

Along with Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren, Allardyce should be the No.1 choice when the job finally becomes vacant.

NOTTS COUNTY yesterday sacked boss Gary Mills, after last Saturday's 5-1 defeat at Rushden & Diamonds left them 21st in the 24-team League Two.

MILLWALL player-boss Dennis Wise is ready to hang up his boots at the end of this season. Wise, 37, has signed a new one-year deal that keeps him at the club until June 2006 but from next summer the contract is as a manager only.

FUMING Huddersfield boss Peter Jackson is set to strip Efe Sodje of the captaincy following his red card in his side's LDV Vans Trophy defeat at Blackpool.

PETERBOROUGH yesterday announced profits for the third year running – but the cash-strapped club's windfall was still less than the cash earned from selling striker Leon McKenzie to Norwich. The League One strugglers made a profit for the period ending May 31 2004 of £249,247, while the sale of McKenzie in December 2003 brought in £375,000.

TOMMY BURNS has been appointed provisional caretaker-manager of Scotland for the friendly against Sweden on November 17.

TONY PULIS' Stoke future has been plunged into fresh doubt after chairman Gunnar Gislason flew back to Iceland without holding contract talks with the Potters boss. Pulis, who has been linked with the Wales job, is desperate to end months of speculation about his job by signing a new long-term deal before his current contract expires next summer.

SOUTHAMPTON are giving trials to Kyle Storer, 17, a midfielder with Conference club Tamworth.

COLCHESTER have handed former Spurs midfielder Ben Bowditch a contract until the end of the season.

HUDDERSFIELD want to sign Charlton goalkeeper Paul Rachubka.

STOKE are looking at Viking Stavanger's Finnish winger Peter Kopteff, who is available on a Bosman transfer.

LEEDS boss Kevin Blackwell is planning a shock move to bring Jermaine Pennant back to Elland Road. Blackwell is keen to re-sign the Arsenal star on loan.

JIMMY GREAVES, Cliff Jones, Martin Chivers, Steve Perryman, Glenn Hoddle and Gary Mabbutt are among the former Tottenham stars who will pay tribute to the legendary Bill Nicholson at Sunday's memorial service at White Hart Lane.

WEST BROM have rejected a bid from QPR to take their £1m rated striker Rob Hulse on loan.

OWLS Trust chief executive John Hemmingham hopes a pending emergency general meeting will signal the beginning of the end for Sheffield Wednesday chairman Dave Allen.

SERIOUSLY football

Watch history boy Van go says Rio



BEWARE OF RUUD RAGE

by DAVE ARMITAGE

RIO FERDINAND has warned Premiership defenders to take care they don't get caught up in a spot of Ruud rage.

The Manchester United defender sees Ruud van Nistelrooy close up and personal every day and reckons the Dutch star is itching to vent his ban anger.

Van Nistelrooy smashed four goals to sink Sparta Prague in the Champions League on Wednesday but has to sit out Sunday's derby with Manchester City, the final game of a three-match domestic ban.

The striker held his hand up for the high challenge on Ashley Cole, which was caught by the cameras. But Ferdinand, who knows more than most about suspensions, believes van Nistelrooy is an even more dangerous beast now.

Blitz

He feels the Holland hit-man was harshly treated in the aftermath of the United and Gunners game and cannot wait to see the big No.10 vent his frustration.

Wednesday night's four-goal blitz takes him to the top of the Champions League scoring charts with seven and even though he has only two domestic goals so far, Ferdinand is in no doubt a

GROUP D										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		
Lyon	.....	4	3	1	0	11	6	10		
Man Utd	.....	4	2	2	0	12	5	8		
Fenerbahce	.....	4	1	0	3	6	13	3		
Sparta Prague	4	0	1	3	2	7	1			

GAMES TO COME

Nov 23: Sparta Prague v Fenerbahce, Man United v Lyon.
Dec 8: Fenerbahce v Man United, Lyon v Sparta Prague.

few more sides in England and Europe will feel the full force of Ruud's rage.

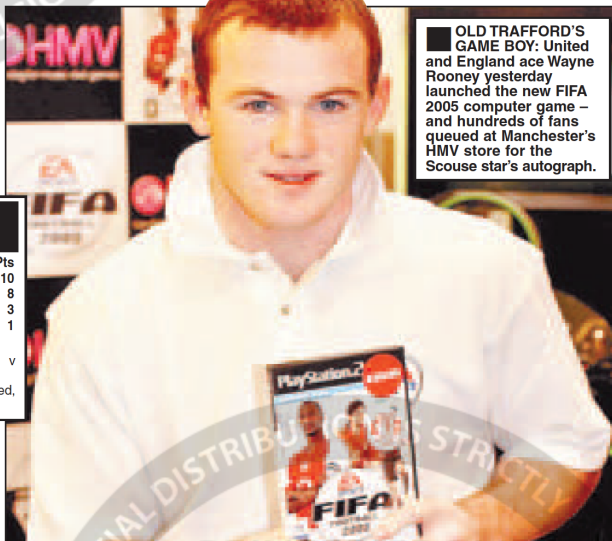
"It was pleasing to see Ruud getting among the goals," said Ferdinand.

"It would have been nice to have seen a couple shared around but it was brilliant seeing Ruud knocking them in."

"I'm not condoning that tackle but I've seen a lot worse. "I think Ruud was a bit disappointed with it but he's not a malicious person and he's certainly not a malicious player."

The England stopper added: "That tackle was not really in his character, so I just take all the fuss with a pinch of salt."

"People jump on certain things and I just think Ruud was an easy target because of the previous stuff that had gone on. It's all in the past now."



OLD TRAFFORD'S GAME BOY: United and England ace Wayne Rooney yesterday launched the new FIFA 2005 computer game – and hundreds of fans queued at Manchester's HMV store for the Scouse star's autograph.

New deal for Brown

by BILL THORNTON

MANCHESTER UNITED defender Wes Brown has ended speculation about his future by agreeing a new four-year deal.

Brown will remain at the club until June 2008 – and Sir Alex Ferguson is delighted at the news.

"I couldn't bear to lose him," said the Old Trafford boss. "I'm thrilled he's decided to commit his future to United."

Brown had turned down United's original offer – with Ferguson claiming he was being given bad advice by his

agent. But the 25-year-old insisted: "I have always wanted to stay at United. This is the best club in the world and I want to continue being a part of it."

Meanwhile, reports US tycoon Malcolm Glazer has renewed his bid to buy JP McManus and John Magnier's stake in United have been denied.

Now Diao can wow

by DAVE LYONS

SALIF DIAO last night revealed the dressing-room row he thought had finished his Liverpool career – before Rafael Benitez arrived to rescue him.

Diao was only an unused sub in Wednesday's impressive Champions League victory at Deportivo La Coruna while others maligned during Gerard Houllier's reign – Igor Biscan and Djimi Traore – played starring roles and earned the fans' approval.

But now the Senegal midfielder, who cost £5m, aims to make similar inroads into the Kop's good books – starting with Birmingham's visit to Anfield tomorrow.

Diao, 27, was axed last season after giving away a penalty in a Carling Cup defeat to Bolton in December, never to play again under Houllier.

Specialist

He said: "I was thrown into playing at centre-half in a difficult game."

"Yet I am not a central defender and never have been. It is a very specialist position and takes time to adjust to."

"I made a mistake giving away the penalty and I knew it myself. Everyone in the ground knew it but I was not alone in making mistakes that night."

"Afterwards in the dressing room, the manager came in and pointed at me, blaming me for the defeat. He also blamed Jerzy Dudek and one or two others but I felt I was singled out."

"After that night I

never played for the first team again and I was sure I would have to move on."

"I am so glad that I have another chance with Mr Benitez."

Another player starting to blossom under Spanish control is Biscan – a player often panned by Reds fans as an expensive mistake.

Biscan also cost £5m but had played only 53 games in four years before his outstanding show on Wednesday.

Liverpool goalkeeper Chris Kirkland said: "Igor was great. He was up and down the pitch, breaking things up and he had a fantastic game."

"In training he does those things all the time."

"He has taken a bit of stick but he takes it with good humour and hopefully a performance like that will get people on his side."



VAN THE MAN: Ruud after his haul

SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
- Hislop, Portsmouth and Trinidad goalkeeper (5)
 - Australian football (5)
 - Calzaghe, WBO super-middleweight champion (3)
 - Alessandro AC Milan and Italy defender (5)
 - Mike boxer who became world heavyweight champion in 1986 (5)
 - Arnoux, driver who won the French Grand Prix in 1982 (4)
 - Court game played with gloves and baskets (6)
 - Bob Surrey, Warwickshire and England fast bowler (6)
 - Touching winner of the St Leger in 1982 (4)
 - Michael German swimmer who won three Olympic gold medals (5)
 - Billy West Ham United captain and later manager (5)
 - Olsen, speedway World champion on three occasions (3)
- DOWN**
- El Gran winner of the 2,000 Guineas in 1984 (5)
 - Arsene Wenger's club (7)
 - Amsterdam based football club (4)
 - Goosen, South African golfer (6)
 - Ferdinand, Bolton Wanderers striker (3)
 - Claus, Derby winner in 1964 (5)
 - Christy uncle and nephew Ryder Cup golfers (10)
 - Justin British motor racing driver (6)
 - Warriors, rugby league team (5)
 - Hare, Nottingham, Leicester and England rugby full-back (5)
 - Xavier, Portugal defender (4)
 - John trainer who won the Derby in 2000 (3)



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Kev: Our kids can forget it

by JEREMY CROSS

FUMING Kevin Blackwell admits his players are not up to the task of firing Leeds back into the big time.

Blackwell is showing signs of cracking under the strain at Elland Road as the Yorkshire club, who were beaten at home by Burnley on Wednesday night, continue to slide down the Championship table.

But the Leeds chief admits his job has been made almost impossible by the club's recent troubles and has cited a lack of leadership at boardroom level for making the situation even worse.

Blackwell blasted: "I will not defend the players for an inept performance like that because I owe it to the fans to say the real thing, not pussyfoot around and hide behind bulls**t."

Thin

"They are still young players trying to learn the game but the challenge is too big for kids week in week out."

"The squad's been paper thin from the beginning of the season, I have got nowhere to go with the players."

"It's a sad indictment of where Leeds have fallen to, but it's been noticeable over two years that there's been a lack of leadership. The debts are massive."

"You can't come into a business and not have a plan. You've got to know where you're going, and if you hit a problem you've got to know how to get out of it."

Mick in as Joe is KO'd

JOE KINNEAR will lose his job as Nottingham Forest manager today – with Mick Harford lined up to take over as boss. Forest chairman Nigel Doughty has finally run out of patience with Kinnear and is ready to offer him the role of director of football at the City Ground to make room for Harford.

Harford was at Forest on Wednesday night to see Kinnear's side, who have won just two games all season, stumble to a draw against rock-bottom Rotherham.

And after fans called for Doughty to quit, the chairman, who has bankrolled the club, has decided it is time for action.

Kinnear wanted Harford to be his assistant when he took over the post from Paul Hart in February, but he was unable to secure his release from Luton.

But Doughty is now in a position to bring in Mike Newell's assistant manager from the Kenilworth Road club.

SERIOUSLY football

UEFA CUP SPECIAL: Brilliant Boro on

BOLO ZENDEN'S 'EM PACKING

FLYING Dutchman Bolo Zenden was Middlesbrough's European hero as he struck the goals which sank Lazio.

Zenden found the net before and after the break with a little help from England hopeful Stewart Downing, who terrorised Boro's Italian opponents all night.

Boro were out of the blocks in double-quick time and enjoyed a dream start when they took a deserved lead thanks to some more deadly finishing from Zenden.

The Dutch ace scored the winner which sank Charlton at the weekend and the winger was at it again with a stunning 16th-minute strike.

Chaos

Downing caused chaos down the left and despite the England Under-21 star's cross being partially cleared by Fernando Couto, it fell nicely for Zenden on the edge of the box.

The former Chelsea midfielder did not need asking twice to try his luck and struck a sweet shot left-footed into the bottom corner to give keeper Fabrizio Casazza no chance as The Riverside erupted.

Cagey Lazio were desperate to play down their chances of pulling off a win after a disastrous run of only one win in six games coming into this tie.

Boss Domenico Casso made five changes from Sunday's 1-1 draw with Inter Milan, which included bringing in third-choice stopper Casazza, who was kept busy.

But Boro's claim this was the biggest game in their history was dampened by failing to sell out, though they were not helped by Lazio's paltry following – just 63 fans making the trip from the Italian capital.

Yet Lazio should have broken the

by GEORGE SCOTT

**Middlesbro....2
Lazio.....0**

deadlock on seven minutes after a mistake by Franck Queudrue, who returned after serving a ban for his sending-off at Banik Ostrava in the last round.

His poor control let in Antonio Fillipini who sent in a snap-shot which flashed across the face of goal and just inches wide of Mark Schwarzer's post.

Moments later, Ray Parlour was surrounded by angry Lazio players, who felt the Boro midfielder should have cleared the ball out of play to allow treatment to the injured Giuliano Giannichedda.

But the former Arsenal man ignored their pleas and sent in a fierce 20-yard shot which forced Casazza into a neat save.

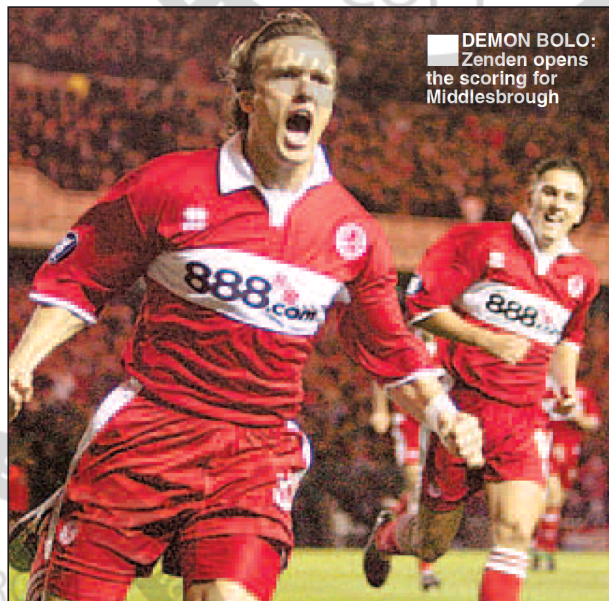
Giannichedda was carried off and replaced by Fabrizio Meira as the bad feeling towards Parlour threatened to spill over until the Russian referee intervened.

Class

Former West Ham favourite Paolo di Canio had a quiet start on his return to England but showed his class just before Lazio fell behind lead with a moment of brilliance. He surged forward from halfway before unleashing a curling effort which needed a decent save from Schwarzer.

But Boro were not content to sit back on their lead.

Mark Viduka came close to claiming it with a spectacular overhead effort which landed on the roof of the net with Casazza struggling to make his ground after more good work from the



DEMON BOLO: Zenden opens the scoring for Middlesbrough

TEAMS

MIDDLESBROUGH: Schwarzer, McMahon, Southgate, Riggett, Queudrue, Parlour, Boateng, Zenden, Downing, Hasselbaink, Viduka. Subs: Nash, Cooper, Doriva, Job, Morrison, Wilson, Davies.
LAZIO: Casazza, Oddo, Oscar Lopez, Couto, Seric, Antonio Fillipini, Dabo, Giannichedda, Cesar, Di Canio, Delgado. Subs: De Angelis, Manfredini, Rocchi, Pandev, Melara, Sannibale, Torroni.
REF: Y Baskakov (Russia).

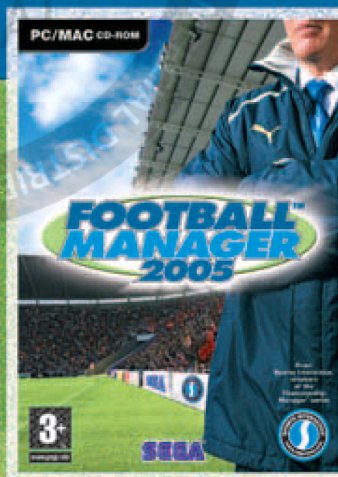


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THAT'S FOR STARTERS:
Alan Shearer shoots
home Newcastle's first



TOON END SOU TORMENT



BELL-TER: Patrick Kluivert salutes Craig Bellamy

GRAEME SOUNESS banished his Tbilisi demons as Newcastle notched up one of their easiest European victories last night.

For 25 years, Georgia's been preying on the Toon chief's mind after he was in the Liverpool side which crashed to a humiliating defeat at the hands of Tbilisi just months after being crowned champions of Europe.

There was never any danger of Souness revisiting that nightmare, though, as Newcastle won with an ease the scoreline barely reflects.

Georgian football is a shadow of its former self and such was the gulf in class between the sides, the home crowd sensed a rout.

Tempo

It never materialised, with Newcastle having to be satisfied with Alan Shearer's eighth goal of the campaign before the break and Craig Bellamy's fifth early in the second-half.

The performance certainly will not rank as one of the Toon's finest at this level, with the tempo slowing to near walking pace for the last quarter of an hour.

But the result virtually guarantees the club UEFA Cup football in 2005, with a six-point haul from their opening two Group D fixtures.

And Souness will be only too aware Sochaux and Sporting Lisbon, who they meet in the next

by IAN MURTAGH
Newcastle.....2
D. Tbilisi.....0

month, will offer much more than last night's outclassed visitors.

It was a surprise Newcastle had to wait until the 38th minute to notch up the club's 100th European goal at St James' Park.

From the outset they cut through the Tbilisi backline, creating a hatful of chances before Shearer eventually broke the deadlock.

Despite looking capable of scoring with every attack, Newcastle wasted chance after chance after chance.

When the goal eventually arrived, it was wonderfully crafted.

Robert expertly headed Shay Given's clearance towards Kluivert and the Dutch master stroked a perfectly weighted pass into the path of the on-running Shearer.

An offside flag had spared the Toon skipper's blushes 10 minutes earlier when he shot over from six yards, but the arch-predator made no mistake this time.

He did not break stride before shooting right-footed across keeper Zurab Mamaladze and into the far corner of the net.

The pattern continued after the restart, with Tbilisi pinned into their own territory.

First, Robert's piledriver can-

noned off Mamaladze's chest and wide.

Then Jenas split the visitors' defence only for Shearer to waste the chance with a heavy first touch.

But the second goal duly arrived 11 minutes into the second half, with Bellamy profiting from some woeful defending.

Avalanche

The previously reliable Mamaladze bizarrely punched Robert's corner high into the air and when Georgi Memadze's weak header dropped in front of Bellamy 12 yards out, the Welsh striker volleyed through a forest of legs and into the net.

The crowd sat back, awaiting an avalanche but it never came despite the one-way traffic.

Robert's 20-yarder crashed against the woodwork, Bellamy shot over the bar, substitute James Milner almost scored a solo effort himself and Kluivert missed a sitter.

But Souness finally buried those Georgian ghosts from his past.

TEAMS

NEWCASTLE: Given, Hughes, Elliott, O'Brien, Bernard, Jenas, Bowyer, Robert, Kluivert, Shearer, Bellamy, Subs: Harper, Milner, Ambrose, Bramble, Ameobi, Taylor, Brittain.
DYNAMO TBILISI: Mamaladze, Kasha, Salukvadze, Shashilashvili, Kandelaki, Nemsadze, Aladashvili, Kankava, Kyvriyella, Melkadze, Mikheil Kakaladze, Subs: Zoidze, Akhaladze, Dvili, Silagadze, Goncharov, Gigaurei, Makharadze.
REF: E Bernsen (Norway).

Information Station

UEFA Cup

Group A
Ferencvaros (1) 1 Feyenoord (0) 1
Toszer 27 Kato 62
Att: 24,000

Harts (0) 0 Schalke 04 (0) 1
Att: 27,272 Lincoln 73
(Sent off: P Kienorbo, Harts - 48)

Feyenoord 2 1 1 0 4 1 4
Schalke 04 2 1 1 0 2 1 4
Bielefeld 1 0 1 0 1 1 1
Ferencvaros 1 0 1 0 1 1 1
Harts 2 0 0 2 0 4 0

Group B
Besiktas (1) 3 Athletic Bilbao (0) 1
Gurses 26 Ezquerra 49
Carew 63, Akin 89 Att: 32,000

Parma (0) 1 St. Pauli (0) 0
Budel 79 Att: 3,949

Besiktas 1 1 0 0 3 1 3
St. Pauli 2 1 0 1 2 1 3
Athletic Bilbao 2 1 0 1 2 1 3
Parma 2 1 0 1 2 3 3
Standard Liege 1 0 0 1 0 2 0

Group C
Austria Vienna (0) 1 Real Zaragoza (0) 0
Gilesz 71 Att: 18,800

Utrecht (0) 1 Dinamo (1) 2
Douglas 82 Rolan 12
Semochko 83 Att: 14,150

Dinamo 2 2 0 0 5 3 6
Real Zaragoza 2 1 0 1 2 1 3
Austria Vienna 1 0 0 1 0 1 1
Bruges 1 0 0 1 2 3 0
Utrecht 2 0 0 2 1 4 0

Group D
Newcastle (1) 2 Din Tbilisi (0) 0
Shearer 38 Att: 27,218
Bellamy 56

Sporting (0) 1 Panionios (0) 1
Newcastle 2 2 0 0 5 3 6
Sporting 1 1 0 0 2 0 3
Panionios 1 0 0 1 0 1 0
Dinamo Tbilisi 2 0 0 2 3 0 0
Sporting Lisbon 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Group E
Middlesbrough (1) 2 Lazio (0) 0
Zenden 16, 71 Att: 39,800

Part Belgrade (1) 4 Algaile (0) 0
Christou 23 (og) Att: 20,000

Lic 55, 60
Vukcevic 68

Middlesbrough 2 2 0 0 3 0 6
Partizan Belgrade 1 0 0 0 4 0 3
Villarreal 1 0 0 1 0 1 1
Lazio 2 0 1 1 1 3 1
Algaile 2 0 0 2 0 5 0

Group F
AZ Alkmaar (1) 3 Auxerre (0) 1
Kolman 32, 61 (pen), 71 Dembinski 27
Att: 6,000

Graz AK (0) 1 Amica Wronki (1) 1
Kolman 32, 61 (pen), 71 Dembinski 27
Att: 6,000

Graz AK 2 1 0 0 5 0 3
Rangers 1 1 0 0 5 0 3
Auxerre 1 0 0 1 0 0 1
Amica 2 0 0 1 1 0 1
AZ Alkmaar 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Group G
Din Zagreb (4) 6 Beeren (0) 1
Eduardo 16 Visminkel 82
Mijatovic 21 Att: 12,000

VfB Stuttgart (1) 3 Benfica (0) 0
Zahora 35, 41
Kampfer 55, Mujic 87 Att: 47,000

Caciu 32
Meissner 52, Kuranyi 73

VfB Stuttgart 2 2 0 0 8 1 6
Dinamo Zagreb 2 1 0 0 6 1 3
Benfica 2 1 0 1 4 5 3
Heerenveen 1 0 0 1 2 4 0
Beeren 2 0 0 2 2 11 0

Group H
Lille (2) 2 Zenit SP (0) 1
Tafelberg 42 Karzhkov 39
Moussilou 42 Att: 35,000

Seville (1) 1 Alen Aachen (0) 1
Zenit St Petersburg 2 1 0 1 6 3 3
Alen Aachen 1 1 0 1 0 1 0
Lille 2 1 0 1 2 2 3
AEK 0 0 1 1 5 0 0
Seville 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Group I
Fourth Test (Chennai) Day 2
of Five: India 104 & 5-0, Australia 203
(D Martyn 55; A Kumble 5-90).

TENNIS
PARIBAS MASTERS (Paris) -3rd
Round: M Youzheny (Rus) bt T Henman
(GB) 7-5 6-1.

TODAY'S DIARY
FOOTBALL
(7.45 unless stated)
Coca-Cola Championship
Millwall v Sunderland

Nationwide Conference
Northwich v Canvey Island

CRICKET
Fourth Test - Day 3 of Five: India v
Australia (Chennai, Sam).

GOLF
USPGA Championship (Atlanta).
RUGBY UNION
Zurich Premiership: Leeds v
Northampton (8pm), Sale v Newcastle
(7.45), Wasps v Harlequins (8pm).

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORLD
ACRHS: 1 Bassahil, 7 Colon, 8
Clive, 9 Leyton, 10 Khan, 12 Niki, 14
Gibson, 17 Elias, 18 Keane, 19
Shreeves.

DOWN: 1 Batty, 2 Santos, 3 Back, 4
Leigh, 5 McAlinden, 6 Fernandez, 11
Dickov, 13 Keith, 15 Stags, 16 Ashe.

5 FOR FUN ANSWERS
1 Juan Pablo Montoya, 2 Larry
Holmes, 3 SW19, 4 Jonathan
Woodgate, 5 Edinburgh.

**SERIOUSLY
football****The game's feeble overlords refuse to get****Footie's
haul of
shame**

ADRIAN MUTU is not the first player to fall foul of the drug-testers. Here we look at some other high-profile cases...

MARK BOSNICH

The Aussie keeper tested positive for cocaine in December 2002 and was charged by the FA with breaching doping regulations and bringing the game into disrepute.

Chelsea sacked the player, who appealed to the Premier League. However, the league concluded that he was not unfairly dismissed.

Bosnich was banned for nine months in April 2003, a ban backdated to December 2002. The FA rejected an appeal against the ban in September 2003 and though no longer suspended, he is yet to find another club.

EDGAR DAVIDS

The Dutch ace was at Juventus when he tested positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone in 2001. The Italian Olympic Committee recommended an eight-month ban but Davids served just less than four months. Now with Inter Milan.

JAAP STAM

The Holland centre-back failed a test for nandrolone just three months after signing for Lazio from Manchester United. He protested his innocence, but was banned for five months and fined 50,000 euros. Now with AC Milan.

FERNANDO COUTO

The ex-Portugal captain also tested positive for nandrolone while at Lazio. He was originally suspended for 10 months but this was reduced to four months after Edgar Davids successfully appealed against the length of his ban.

CLAUDIO CANIGGIA

The Argie striker was banned for 13 months in 1993 after a positive test for cocaine. He managed to get his career back on track and played for Dundee and Rangers in the SPL.

DIEGO MARADONA

The Argie legend was banned for 15 months in 1991 by the Italian authorities for narcotic use while at Napoli, he received another suspension of the same length after a 'cocktail' of banned substances were found in a sample he provided at the 1994 World Cup. His addiction to cocaine and other health problems almost cost him his life earlier this year.

RIO FERDINAND

The Manchester United defender received an eight-month ban after he missed a drugs test in September 2003. The player passed a test 36 hours later but was nevertheless hit with the lengthy suspension and has only recently returned to action for club and country.

HAPPIER TIMES:
Adrian Mutu celebrates a Chelsea goal with Frank Lampard



MISSED IT: Mutu loses his goal touch



BEFORE THE SPLIT: Mutu with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho

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tough and let Mutu escape with a slap on the wrist

WHAT A COKE-UP

FA cop out in the war on drugs

WHY is football so petrified of dishing out punishments to fit the crime?

There was an opportunity yesterday for the game to send out a message – indeed, a real warning – to every young player in the country.

Drugs must play no part in sport, whether it's performance-enhancing or recreational. Adrian Mutu admitted taking cocaine and went before an FA jury to be sentenced.

He had already been sacked by Chelsea and here was football's chance to throw the maximum two-year ban at him. Surely, they had to make an example of this fool who has thrown so much away.

Oh no. The FA instead handed the Romanian striker only a seven-month suspension and dished out a fine that amounted to a tiny percentage of the money that Mutu has probably spent on drugs.

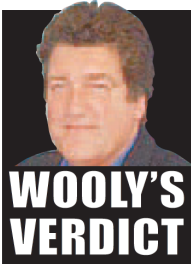
Mercy

I feel no pity for Mutu and only contempt for the FA, who are stumbling in the dark when it comes to making decisions. They are an organisation lacking any kind of leadership.

No doubt Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand is just as confused. He returned recently from an eight-month ban for failing to take a drugs test.

Ferdinand, however, was fortunate to get away with eight months when most other sports would have shown no mercy. Mutu is more than lucky, he's made A DOPE of the FA.

We are getting tired of saying this but the lack of bottle on big decisions is



WOOLY'S VERDICT

undoing all the good work that goes on behind the scenes at the FA.

When will they learn? When will they stand up to be counted? When will they lead with their chin instead of hiding away in fright?

No wonder Chelsea are angry and they led the way on this one.

Huge

Mutu is the classic example of today's player who doesn't know how to handle the huge amounts of money being paid to the stars in this country.

He took the money and threw it back into the face of the English game.

His career here has been a disaster. He scored a couple of goals at the start of



DRIVEN TO DRUGS: Mutu leaves the hearing

last season following his £15m transfer and looked promising.

Then he disappeared when things went wrong.

There were alleged bad-boy stories about him behind the scenes at Stamford Bridge and former manager Claudio Ranieri is said to have told his successor Jose Mourinho to keep a careful eye on Mutu.

Now we know why but will what happened yesterday at Soho Square stop others throwing their careers away?

Not a chance for once again the players who have so much power are laughing at the ruling body.

Since Mutu admitted taking drugs, Paul Gascoigne

and other players have let it be known that drugs are rife in football, especially the Premiership.

And still the FA backed off, as if they are frightened at upsetting the stars. Drugs are clearly a growing problem in football.

Failed

If we are at the start of this problem because of the huge amounts of money players earn then the FA had a responsibility yesterday to set an agenda.

They failed. Miserably but predictably.

Mutu may be feeling sorry for himself this morning.

He shouldn't. He's a very lucky boy.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH

You load of dopes

from Back Page

wrong message about drugs in football. It is also indicative of a lack of direction within the FA at this time.

"As a club we can only take the action we believe is right for Chelsea. However, the FA has a much wider responsibility to look after the interests of the game as a whole and in this case we believe it has shown itself to be weak over the issue of drugs."

But last night the FA hit back. In a statement, FA head of media Adrian Bevington said: "The FA believe that it is important to balance rehabilitation and education with suspension, when appropriate, in cases of players who accept wrongdoing after failing a drugs test."

"Today's verdict falls into line with guidelines set out by FIFA on doping control matters."

Attack

"The player complied with taking a drugs test, accepted he had made a mistake and has committed himself to a clear process of rehabilitation. The FA firmly support the decision of the independent disciplinary commission."

Chelsea's scathing attack on the FA was echoed by Manchester United star Ferdinand, who was left mystified and bewildered by a sentence that re-opened the deep scars left by his punishment.

Ferdinand, who has campaigned passionately against the use of drugs, and his advisers always believed he was being used as a pawn in FA politics.

And last night his agent Pini Zahavi said: "Now everybody can understand what exactly was behind the suspension of Rio."

Yesterday's verdict



EARLE: Big decision

came after a four-and-a-half-hour hearing with a four-man commission.

Three FA disciplinary chiefs were on the panel along with former Wimbledon star Robbie Earle – co-opted in line with FA policy to include a respected figure from the playing side of the game.

It means Mutu, who will not appeal against the decision, will be a free agent to play again next season.

PFA chief Gordon Taylor, who represented Mutu at the hearing, said: "We hope people will now respect his wishes to recover from this problem and join in the rehabilitation process."

"He wants to get his career back on track and be ready to play again by next May."

Santini in Sean shocker

■ by MARC ISAACS

TOTTENHAM have been left reeling by news that Sean Davis's knee injury is so serious it will now keep him out for three months.

The ex-England Under-21 star has been troubled with tendonitis in his knee and underwent surgery on Wednesday, which was expected to keep him on the sidelines for four weeks.

But head coach Jacques Santini revealed the injury was a lot worse than first feared and Davis, signed from Fulham in the summer, could now be ruled out until February.

Santini said: "We always seem to have bad news and we received a major blow with Sean Davis having to undergo an operation."

"He had surgery on Wednesday and the medical staff think he will be unavailable for two to three months. It is bad news for Sean and the team."

Spirit

Santini will also be without Erik Edman, Dean Richards, Thimothée Atouba and Anthony Gardner for the game against Charlton tomorrow at White Hart Lane.

Spurs have suffered three consecutive defeats in the Premiership and are moving towards the wrong end of the table.

And Santini believes his players need to show more spirit if they are to get back on the winning trail.

Santini added: "We need three points on Saturday."

"I hope to have a good spirit throughout the team and they must take more responsibility – especially the international players."

"When we have a few injuries, there is no competition between the players. It is possible the players are not focused enough."

"But they must find a solution to our problems."

Beattie booster

JAMES BEATTIE has given struggling Southampton a major boost by returning to training after five weeks out with a broken toe.

Beattie has been joined in training by other long-term injury victims, Peter Crouch and Jason Dodd – to the relief of head coach Steve Wigley.

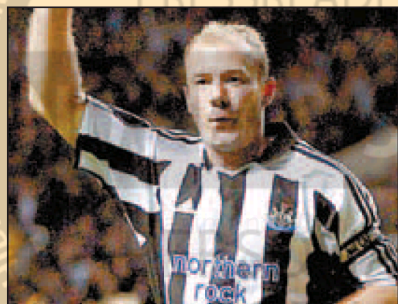
Former England striker Beattie – wanted by Everton and Aston Villa – will not be fit enough to play against West Brom in tomorrow's basement battle.

Instead Beattie and Crouch hope to be ready to take on Hampshire rivals Portsmouth next weekend.

Former Pompey striker Crouch damaged a knee while veteran Dodd has not played since the opening match of the season three months ago because of back trouble.

Wigley said: "It's great to have Beatts back. He is a top-class player and his return has given us a lift."

Striker Kevin Phillips has recovered from knee trouble and will face West Brom.



SHEAR WE GO: Shearer celebrates goal

Easy for Toon 'n Boro

IT was double top for the North East last night as Newcastle and Middlesbrough ruled the roost in Europe.

Alan Shearer set the Toon on the road to a comfortable 2-0 victory over Dinamo Tbilisi at St James' Park.

Craig Bellamy grabbed the second as Newcastle topped Group D after two wins.

Two goals from Dutch master Bolo Zenden put Boro firmly on top of

Group E with a maximum six points as they stunned tournament favourites Lazio 2-0 at The Riverside.

Zenden rocked the Italians with a 20-yard left-foot volley in the 16th minute and then finished them off with a header in the 71st minute.

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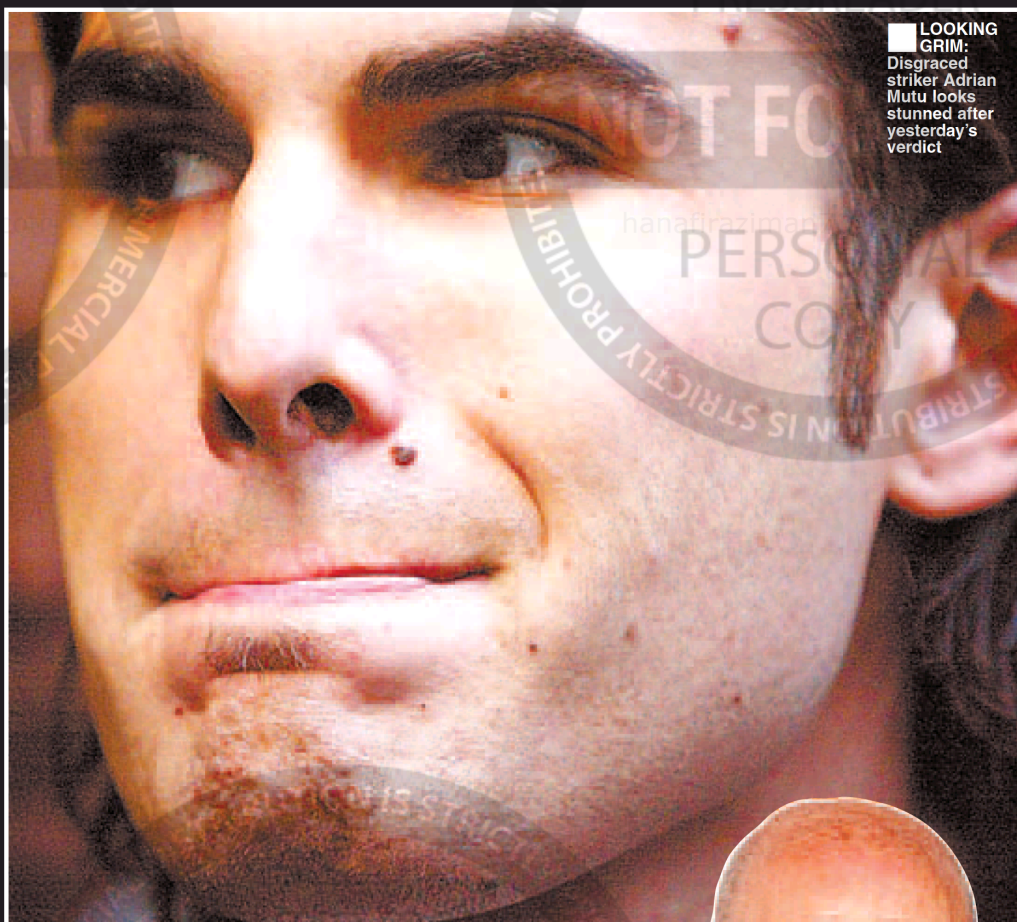
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LOOKING GRIM: Disgraced striker Adrian Mutu looks stunned after yesterday's verdict



KENYON: Slammed FA's verdict

YOU DOPES

Chelsea fury at FA after Mutu let-off

CHELSEA last night slammed the FA for their slap-on-the-wrist punishment of disgraced drug star Adrian Mutu.

The Romanian striker escaped from a Soho Square hearing with just a seven-month ban and a £20,000 fine - despite admitting regular

■ **by RALPH ELLIS**

cocaine use. He got a month less from the FA for failing a test and then confessing to regular drug use than England defender Rio Ferdinand received for forgetting to take a test.

FA officials followed the advice of players' chief Gordon Taylor, who had called for reha-

ilitation and education. But Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon, who wrote off more than £12m of the club's money by sacking the star, authorised a club statement that said: "Chelsea is extremely disappointed with the verdict.

"We believe it is far too lenient and that it sends out the

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